

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

AMENDED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014, AT BEST WESTERN INN, 2402 HWY. 97N, KELOWNA, B.C.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch
BC Agriculture Council
BC Fruit Growers Association
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
B.C. Ministry of Agriculture
B.C. Min. Forests, Lands, and Natural Res. Ops. (Resource Mgmt)
City of Kelowna
Environment Canada – West and North
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board
Okanagan Nation Alliance
Regional District North Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
UBC Okanagan

Denise Neilsen
Hans Buchler
Denise MacDonald
Doug Flintoft
Andrew Petersen
Ray Reilly (alt.)
K. Cuttley (alt.)
Ian Rogalski
Doug Edwards
David O’Keefe
Natasha Lukey
Jen Miles (alt.)
Evelyn Riechert
Bernie Bauer

Regrets

Interior Health Authority
Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.
BC Cattlemen’s Association
B.C. Min. Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (Ecosystems)
B.C. Water Supply Association
BC Ground Water Association
Canadian Water Resources Association
City of Vernon
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Okanagan College
Okanagan Forest Sector
Regional District of Central Okanagan

Rob Birtles, Vice-Chair
Don Dobson, Chair
Lee Hesketh
Grant Furness
Toby Pike
Remi Allard
Brian Guy
Rob Dickinson
Carol Luttmmer
Leif Burge
Kerry Rouck
Margaret Bakelaar

STAFF:

OBWB, Executive Director
OBWB, Water Stewardship Director
OBWB, Office and Project Manager
OBWB, Communications Director

Anna Warwick Sears
Nelson Jatel
James Littley
Corinne Jackson

GUESTS:

BC Fruit Growers Association
BRAES UBC Institute
Canadian Water Resources Association
Freelance writer
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
UBC Okanagan
UBC Okanagan

Christine Dendy
Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo
Dwayne Meredith (alt.)
Judie Steeves
Zoe Kirk (alt.)
Grace Fan
Craig Nichol
Nancy Fuller
Jillian Tamblyn
Victor Cumming
Kate Cumming

Water’s Edge Consulting
Westcoast CED Consulting
Westcoast CED Consulting

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Bernie Bauer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed members and guests. Each person introduced themselves.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Moved by Ian Rogalski

Seconded by Hans Buchler

“That the agenda for the September 11, 2014 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the joint Okanagan Water Stewardship Council and Okanagan Basin Water Board meeting held June 3, 2014, at the Best Western Inn in Kelowna.

No amendments were noted.

The session in June focused on two of the four goal areas of Strategic Plan 2014-2019: Goal 4 - Excellent relationships with stakeholders and other levels of government; and Goal 2 - Excellent source water quality. The two main topic areas were covered by: Okanagan Nation Alliance – Fisheries Department presentation by Richard Bussanich (Fisheries Biologist) and short discussion starters on source water protection by Ivor Norlin (IHA), Mike Wei (Groundwater, Min. of Env.), Renee Clark (Water Quality, RDNO) and Lee Hesketh (Farmland Interface, BC Cattlemen’s Association).

A quick introduction to the process was provided conducted in the Joint Session. Open discussion about the fisheries content ensued.

Note Grand opening of the Penticton Salmon hatchery on September 20 and salmon feed on September 21.

Moved by Evelyn Riechert

Seconded by David O’Keefe

“That the minutes from the June 3, 2014 joint meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council and Okanagan Basin Water Board be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

4. BOARD REPORT—Dr. Anna Warwick Sears

The Board meeting was held September 11, 2014

Deborah Curran – legal analysis (presentation is available on the OBWB website as a video) on Water sustainability Act will interact with the Local Government Act as well as the recent Supreme Court (Canada) on the Tsilhqot’in case.

Leon Louis provided a terrific presentation about First Nation cultural aspects of water and their own water resources plan that has been underway for two or three years. The presentation linked with the data planning that OBWB and other contributors. These two presentations link through the Supreme Court’s decision that empowers FNs in BC to expand their rights and titles to a variety of resources. OBWB will continue to work with Okanagan Nation as much as possible and keep seeing how mutual interests can be maintained.

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears – High level report on projects and programs followed by specifics on the Water Management Program Review process.

- Water Management Review is the largest OBWB programs including funding for most of the staff which must re-endorsed every 3 years by all three participating Region Districts.
- Wrote an extensive review of the program over the previous 3 years.
- As of September 11, 2014 OBWB has endorsement by all three regional districts for another 4 years (this time).

OWSC Chair – Significant credit to the Board, Council and staff for their constant delivery on programs and education to the Regional District Board about the importance and value of the Water Stewardship Program and its funded activities.

- OBWB will send out the report to all members.
- Water diversity form October
- Brief update on the WSC and its activities
- More communication with the Board on the Zebra Mussels and milfoil program

Important to note that most of the work done at the Board, in terms of projects and programs comes from the WSC, so members are as close the information as anyone.

The Chair commented that for next year's joint meeting (OBWB and OWSC), if you have particular things that are working and not working that you want talked about that could be included in next year's meeting.

5. DISCUSSION: Draft Council Work Plan 2014-15 (See attached work plan)

WSC has seen the benefit of not meeting in the summer and a leadership meeting was held over the summer and discussions with some of you to redevelop our work plan for next year (2014/15). The Leadership team consists of the OWSC chair, vice-chair and previous chair and invited WSC members. The rough plan had three main themes:

- Review of the current context
- Reconstitute our committees – forming three action committees with self develop narrow mandates.
- Flag Ship initiatives – standing committee that meets regularly, e.g. water sustainability act or source protection, which are both much larger “projects” to ask what have done, what are planning to do and how do we keep the subject area moving along.

The three new proposed action committees are: 1) Ground Water, 2) Water Pricing, 3) Environmental Flows with yet to decided narrow mandates. Plus a 4th committee for Agriculture Water which already exists. Proposed flagships committees are for long term on-going topics that are productively stopped and started including source water protection, water governance and wetlands. Each committee (4 Action Committees and 3 flagship committees) is envisioned to have co-chairs and members that will prepare a general written strategy matching the table system in the draft work plan showing headers of the current state, the challenges, solutions being proposed general approach and development concept. The focus in the action committees will be how OWSC moves from analysis to action. While the focus for the Flagship committees will be more at the strategic level designing ways to maintain pressure on systems to shift over the longer term.

The document also describes the relationship between the Board, and OWSC and the relationship between the subcommittees and the staff and the projects they are working on and how they will all interact. Our intern Ted Wannop will be assisting with the preparation of the Work Plan. There is a 2009 report on what committees at the time were doing.

The committee draft ideas are expected to be passed through the Board for review. The OWSC most often will be out in front of the Board and suggested projects will be floated through the Board. Projects as usual will need to be approved by the Board particularly when resources and partnerships are required.

The first proposed Action Committee is Groundwater resources by the two co-chairs and members stuck in mid October. The second Action Committee is Water Pricing, with a more truncated time frame. Water pricing is a very complex topic. What is envisioned (land mine city) is 1) water pricing from the water utility which is not to be touched and 2) resource rent, which is the license fee charged by the Province. The sensitivity is for the small scale license holders paying increased fees and not the major water utilities. See the Work Plan and Governance Structure document pages 14 and 15.

The topic of environmental flows, the third Action Committee, was revisited in the Water Sustainability Act and there are opportunities for reconfirmation of thought regarding fish flows in the Okanagan. Dealing with Environmental flows is articulated as part of our Strategic Plan Goals and is timely for the ONA fisheries initiatives. One of the challenges will be with natural flows versus environmental flows where water is being added by the water purveyor. This is where drought scenarios are dealt with.

What is the will of Council? We have done this before in 2009 but 6 committees are a lot to be operating at one time. Some of you were on all 6 committees and others just some of the committees. We don't take everything on at once because we do not want burnout when the Action Committees met monthly for about a year with the Flagship committees meeting quarterly or twice yearly.

The water sustainability plan (management plan) was discussed briefly and felt it was not the appropriate time to be preparing it as other topics are timelier. A process is underway including interviews in the Okanagan to get clear where the water sustainability plan fits in. Committees would deal with smaller parts and potentially be brought back to fitted into the larger plan. The act now provides information on a water sustainability plan.

Are these three committees (projects) appropriate? These will be happening in a parallel fashion. Suggested priority on water pricing as the Province is moving forward on this quite quickly. These committees will be operating between strategies and projects operated by staff or the Board focusing on OBWB

Flagship Initiatives

- Source protection
- Water governance
- Wetlands

Are intended to think bigger picture and make recommendations back to WSC.

Wetlands are land use issues dealt with at a local level, and is dealt with by land use planning and decisions. May want to stay away from it as it controversial but land use maybe a potential flagship instead of wetlands. What is the division between local government and OBWB. Our strength is on the strategic level and providing information to decision makers. Source protection is something OBWB have done that involves land use decisions. A big vision is probably what is needed and projects come and go as funding is available. Projects may have shorter time frames.

A suggestion is to pilot some of the ideas that proposed including groundwater and made in the Okanagan set of regulations due April 1, 2015. It would be the Okanagan taking the initiative as there is no formal process for input at this time. The roll out of the regulations is still not known. The Board could be helpful for the generating input into the roll out including additional consultation with specific groups.

Council was asked about whether this document should be filled and second draft available in October. A good discussion followed with the meeting chair indicating that if there was not major opposition that additional work on the draft would take place and a revised version presented to the October meeting. Silence and nods was accepted as direction for revision and presentation at the October meeting.

Action item: Nelson to circulate a request for volunteers as co-chairs for each of the three committees during the week of September 15-19.

Discussion took place regarding when will the committees met? Response was it is envisioned that the meetings would take place in the morning of the Council meeting to avoid additional travel by members, potentially in same location. Some of the committees would last up to a year and meet for an hour each month. Concern about the capacity of the members to meet regularly so suggested the possibility of having committee meetings and councils meetings on alternative months. A suggested was made to rename the Environment Flows committee to Drought Management, Drought Planning or something close to that.

6. GUEST SPEAKER: Jillian Tamblyn – Update on the Okanagan Wetland Strategy: Phase I (Complete) and Phase II (in-progress)

Jillian Tamblyn was a member of the Council and is now a recent hire by OBWB's Wetlands Management Team Project (half time) to take us through the Phase II of the Okanagan Wetlands Strategy and getting the results of Phase I distribute and understood widely.

The presentation (see attached power point slides) was a review of what was Phase 1 was about. The draft report on Phase 1 is available to Council members by request and is expected to be made available to the public in a few weeks. Thank you to Environment Canada for significant funding for the project. The project leads are OBWB, RDCO, and BC Wildlife Federation.

Phase 1 was outreach, data collection, prioritization and mapping to provide a foundation for immediate and long-term conservation and restoration efforts on Okanagan wetlands. The consulting group that produced the Phase I report is Ecoscape Environmental Consultants. The study are includes the three regional districts – RDNO, RDCO and RDOS.

The presentation provided:

Phase 1

- The benefits of wetlands
- Ten key wetland values
- Wetland loss in the Okanagan
- Water in the Okanagan: Planning for the future activities
- Wetland conversion concerns through the top 5 concerns – climate change, non-native invasive species, agriculture cultivation, hydrologic features and wetland conversion to other uses.
- Threats – storm drains and outfalls, recreation,
- Guiding principles for wetland protection and restoration
- Activities undertaken in Phase 1 were: outreach, data collection, stewardship opportunities, criteria for importance, mapping of priority wetlands, governance structures for regulating wetlands, and recommendations to decision makers and other parties.
- Inventory of Current protection and threat
- Regional distribution of wetlands
- Recommendations – Update and refine GIS database; conduct field inventory and mapping; develop targets and timelines; refine priorities; protect priority wetlands; monitor, restore and enhance wetlands; and conduct education and outreach.

Phase 2

- Objectives:
 - Action: - 3 wetland projects by March 2015 and 3 more by 2016
 - Communication and outreach
 - Data management
 - Collaboration

Comments:

- Have a communications vehicle to update the data so that data can be updated. Fish and game clubs would like to contribute to the data base given they visit them all the time.
- What are the project's objectives in relation to connection with local government? E.g. communication, recommendations or projects with local government. Some of the activities will be communicating with local governments' councils. Some projects development could be policy oriented, e.g. a suggestion in RDNO would be to revisit their RGS wetland policy.
- There are many ways to continue the conversation including joining the wetland committee.

7. ROUNDTABLE – MEMBER UPDATES

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): not much to report on UBC's activities. Planning is underway again on next year's water day events and individual researchers are working on other things.
- Mr. Reilly (Min. Forests, Lands & Natural Resources): Okanagan Shuswap District is supporting the Water Sustainability Act by having their Water Allocation Section Head (Conrad) on temporary assignment in Victoria for six months helping out with the regulation development for the WSA. He has been working on that for about a month and will go until February. There is a temporary section head starting next week. The Regional Hydrologist position in Penticton was re-advertised. Interviews for the position will occur on September 24 & 25. Hopeful that this round will be successful for filling the position. The Mission Creek Hydrologic Capacity Study (Shaun Reimer) has been finished. They have put together 100-200 year flood flows. They have identified a few places along the dyke on Mission Creek where they need to a little more work. The next step is a more detailed design to look at those areas to make sure that the work that needs to be done is getting done. (Q— Anna Warwick Sears: Do you know if that report is going to get released? A: I am not sure. Q—Anna Warwick Sears: Can you ask? I am really curious about their hydraulic study and what has been changed.) The cross sections that existed in the 1980's are being recreated so there is a nice snap shot comparison there. Also, the main lake is right on target for water volume in the lake and they plan to elevate the flows next week to make sure they are on target and they are working with the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative doing work in the channel.
- Mr. Rogalski (Environment Canada): The work order for the Okanagan Lake Evaporation Study will go out next week to remove the hardware from the lake. The Science and Technology Branch are putting together a draft report of the data and interpretation. The results of the 2012 Canadian Nature Survey have been released and there is a chapter for each province. Back in May the Prime Minister announced the National Conservation Plan which has \$250 million in new money over the next five years to conserve, restore and connect Canadians back to nature. A big piece of that went to the Nature Conservancy of Canada for the next five years to have some more acquisitions. Would like to thank Nelson and others for the work they have championed on the wetland. Part of the National Conservation Plan was a contribution of \$50 million over the next five years to the National Wetland Conservation Fund for on the ground projects (restoration and enhancement), particularly those that have been identified through the priority identification process. The Science Strategy has just been released for the 2014-19 period. (**Action required:** Nelson Jatel asked for a PDF copy that he can then circulate.) (**Potential Action Required:** Acting Chair commented that once the Evaporation Study/Report is wrapped up that we might be quite interested in hearing a presentation from those folks. Remember that with the Water Demand Supply Study one of the weak links in that whole thing was understanding lake evaporation which were a range of wild estimates and it would be really nice to get an update on that and see what the instruments tell us.) The Acting Chair, on behalf of the OWSC and OBWB, extended thanks to Environment Canada for the support in collecting the data as it was a pretty large investment that critically was really important for us in terms of moving forward with additional modelling. (Anna Warwick Sears purposed a letter be sent and the Acting Chair felt that the Board should formulate and send a letter. **Action:** Nelson Jatel can bring it forward to the OWSC for a resolution by the Board so we can forward that as a recommendation by the OWSC to send a formal letter of thanks to Environment Canada.) Much discussion ensued on whether the Okanagan Lake Evaporation Study could be continued by another organization. This is really important. We talk all the time about the importance of monitoring. We have a monitoring system in place and good data, shouldn't the process continue? Acting Chair brought the conversation to a conclusion but further investigation may be warranted.
- Ms. Steeves (BCWF): The BC Wildlife Federation and the Peachland Sportsmen's Association spearheaded a work party out on the Bald range grasslands doing some restoration work. While this may not seem all that important as far as water is concerned but one of the difficulties is the enormous damage done to the grasslands. There is a fall line trail created by dirt bikers that has eroded over time and that water has made into a 2-3 foot deep gulley in places. They are trying to restore that damage and bring the grasslands back to a level. BCWF worked with ONA on the Okanagan Salmon Initiative this summer. The Sockeye were fished this summer on Osoyoos Lake. It

was a huge run and involved non-native fisherman in a commercial fishery with an objective of creating a sustainable restoration and monitoring program for this Sockeye. The idea is that the proceeds from the commercial fishery will go back into ensuring that the Sockeye habitat is in good enough shape that they will continue to come back. A whole bunch of communities are working together on that. The Chefs Association is very involved and serving the sockeye in the restaurants and are very proud of the fact that it is a local product. The Okanagan Shuswap Eco-system restoration steering committee is working on trying to create more fires on the landscape that will help to restore more natural growth and they also help to protect source water. The Wild Kids Camp this summer, part of the BCWF wetland education conference, was a success. The camp got a whole bunch of kids involved in wetlands education. Hopefully, the wetlands education project that Water's Edge is proposing will work with this kind of youth program.

- Ms. MacDonald (BC Fruit Growers): Reports a successful growing season from the BC Fruit Growers. Despite hail and pests, the weather has been great and the quality has been maintained and the market is there. The prices were good for the apples at the packing house. They are good for another year.
- Mr. Edwards (Fisheries and Oceans): A good deal of his time has been spent in the North Okanagan working on Cooke Creek at the Kingfisher Interpretive Centre. The debris slide this spring almost wiped out Kingfisher which has a small hatchery which is mainly for outreach purposes. There are a lot of issues there right now. He is trying to reconstruct the facility and got permits this week to work in the river to reconfigure the bottom portion of the creek. He is working with Kingfisher group and the Regional District. There has been funding from all different kinds of sources. There is a fundraising dinner in Enderby on September 26. Invitations are going out now. They just had another round of funding intake for the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program. This is the third round and the final one for this stage of it. They will be reviewing the applications over the next few weeks. This has been a pilot program for the past couple of years but will probably be continuing on and will let folks here know if there is going to be another round of funding. NCP and DFO are looking after the aquatic species part of the program. There are 4 streams of funding under the program, including aboriginal funding and species at risk. The Deadline is Monday (Sept 15) for full proposals (ones that made it through the first screening. The BC Cattlemen's Association's FRISP is applying for funding under this. ONA is also applying for funding for three projects. One is based in the Columbia (white sturgeon); another is to do with an inventory of the Rocky Mountain mussels and another is for the reintroduction of the Sockeye into the Okanagan system. Another project he is involved in is not part of this area but may be of interest. He is working on a project in the Horsefly River system involving the Mt. Polley mine disaster. They are finding that the fish are coming through are coming strong now.
- Mr. Petersen (Agriculture): This summer he was tasked with a very large land use inventory. The land use inventory went all the way from Little Shuswap to Lytton following the S. Thompson/Thompson River very similar to what is actually being done again this summer in the Okanagan, to re-establish what is going on in the land base. He secured funding for the BC Water Use Reporting Centre which took a long time to go through the process and is still ongoing. They are trying to bring in individual license holders into the Centre so they can use it to report and not just irrigation districts and municipalities reporting. He continued with a soil moisture study in Kamloops and looking into water allocation for crops and actual water use for short grow crops. (Q: The water allocated for crops is that based on a certain amount of drought occurring? Irrigation allocation generally is based on a forage crop. He has been tasked with trying to bring all of the studies he has done together into a paper that can go out to anyone to show what has been found in terms of irrigation studies.
- Dr. Neilsen (Agri-Food Canada): It is the 100th anniversary of the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre, celebrating with an open house on October 4th. In conjunction with that they are having a Centennial speaker series with upcoming guest speakers on September 16th (Development of the Water System for the Okanagan), September 29th (Panel Discussion on Exploring the Value of Agricultural Land and Landscapes) and October 7th (Leading the Apple to the Worm: The Coddling Moth Nature War). (The lectures are all at the park at 7:30 except for the September 29th event which will be at Okanagan College in Penticton at 7pm. Information is available in a handout that

Anna Warwick Sears handed around.) (Q: Will those series be recorded? A: Shaw Cable might be coming in. **Action:** Dr. Neilsen will have look into it and let people know if it is going to be recorded.)

- Ms. Lukey (ONA): They have had an exciting summer. The existing fish structure at the Okanagan Falls dam has been modified. They put in fish stop logs and are monitoring it now. They are hopeful that fish now have passage up to Okanagan Lake Dam. Also, there are two spawning platforms being constructed in the Penticton Channel. The first platform is finished and the second one should be done soon. (Q: What is a spawning platform? A: Basically, we put gravel at a .25% slope over a certain number of metres (150m for the first platform). The first platform has Chinook and Sockeye and the second platform only has Sockeye. (Q: Just to clarify, you are filling in part of the channel with gravel of a certain texture for a certain length – about 7000 m² altogether. A: Yes, this is a huge increase in the available spawning platform for salmon.) This year's First Nation food fish distribution was approximately 30,000 salmon.
- Dr. Fan (UBCO): She presented her work on the Council and the Board, putting the Okanagan on the map of main management scholars. She would like to thank all the people for their time. She has received a share grant to look at the Water Act. She will be following the process and channels of negotiations and discussions to assess the impact of input on the final Act. (Q: Is there any type of report that we can circulate to the council members or the Board that you have produced yet? A: Not really. For me the biggest and most surprising finding when I come to all these meetings is that the glue is passion. Whenever I interviewed people as well as observed these meetings what became very strong is the depth of passion that exists.)
- Ms. Miles (RDNO): They just wrapped up their summer season of outreach with their summer students that are funded through a grant from the OBWB for supporting outreach on the Don't Move a Mussel campaign and Make Water Work campaign. They have gotten tonnes of really positive feedback from the community on having them out in the community. They were present at all boat launches and farmers markets in the community. There were no confrontations in what can be a contentious environment (boat launches). It was great to have the positive face in the community spreading the message and we really appreciate the financial support of the OBWB to be able to have those students out there. In terms of other outreach projects going on, our big push is on our referendum for borrowing which is happening as part of the municipal elections. We have to borrow \$70 million to support the Vernon Master Water Plan priority project. We are having open houses next week and into October discussing why the plan is important and helping the voters be informed about what would happen if we didn't fund those projects which are required either through Interior Health requirements or just to resolve capacity bottlenecks in our system. Other work going on includes the completion of the North Kal water source and we are now entering into the response plan phase and had a meeting to review the draft response plan with the Technical Advisory committee and our water protection staff person will be working on finalizing that response plan. Our Board has asked for a bunch of stats so they can prepare a water rates review. We have an annual in-depth review of our rates and we are starting to hear more and more that people are very frustrated that their water rates keeping going up and up even though they are conserving water. We might have to start looking at other formats for our rate structure. We are finding some really interesting research out of the US from the Alliance for Water Efficiency on a dividends type thing. Looking forward to working with RDOS on the RBC grant and raising irrigation industry education.
- Ms. Kirk (RDOS): Interested at finding ways of keeping buoys in the lake. Interested in seeing how the Sockeye coming up into the Okanagan for the first time in a long time will change the patterns for the bears coming down. They will be monitoring the conflict calls and seeing how the wildlife react to having a new species of fish available for consumption.
- Ms. Riechert (RDOS): RDOS and UBCO are looking to do some research on the Okanagan Falls waste water treatment outfall (hopefully). There is a pending grant application. RDOS took over the water system in the West Bench area. The new supply line and booster station is now complete. The grand opening was in July. They still need to decommission the old one but the new one is up and running. With that program as well the meter reading has started on the West Bench. They are doing that for one year and then developing a restructure based on readings. RDOS is also working on a heritage plans and includes natural landscapes. Electoral Area D1 is about to start an OCP update and review. One of the pieces of the terms of reference for the proposal was to give RDOS

information on groundwater capacity for the area. They are looking at that whole area to create a summary to aid decision making. They want to figure out what is there and work toward some kind of EA groundwater policy. The Town of Oliver is starting their Source Water Protection Plan and RDOS was invited to be on their committee. Ms. Riechert is going to try and get herself on that committee. RDOS has signed a Protocol Agreement with First Nations last year. They had their one year celebration in July. Part of that is a steering committee at the staff level. They have been meeting every 6 weeks to exchange information. They are working on developing an action plan. One of the key issues is how referrals between governments work. FortisBC announced that the Similkameen River Dam that they have been proposing has been deferred for economic reasons. They are not cancelling it but it is based on the price of electricity versus the engineering costs of building on the Similkameen. (Q: What about the dam south of the border? Last we heard about two years ago the US Corps of Engineers was steaming ahead with that one. A: I thought they had cancelled it. I don't know if it is going ahead, but there is definitely one on the US side that is going through and EA process. It may not flood into Canada.)

- Ms. Restrepo-Tamayo (BRAES): On September 16th and 17th, they are hosting the Okanagan Water and Biodiversity Forum at UBCO with key presentations in the evenings. See the website for details.
- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): The summer Make Water Work campaign is wrapping up, which included working with local governments and various advertisements including radio, billboards, and vehicle magnets. Last week as part of their annual meeting, they presented the Town of Oliver with the Make Water Work Champion. As part of Make Water Work they are inviting people to pledge to make water work more effectively on the landscape and there are a number of pledges they can pick on the website. Individuals, by pledging, are entered for a chance to win \$5000 in water wise upgrades to their property. New this year, the mayors and city councillors throughout the valley took a pledge and invited their residents to do the same thing. There was a big news conference back in July that was well presented and attended by the media. Sarah Moorehouse in Vernon was the \$5000 winner. The campaign began as a pilot project in 2011 and has just been expanding every year. There was a 60% increase in pledges this year over last year. They have new business partners as well, including: kelownagardens.com which is IADC certified, Pro Source Irrigation and Bylands. Next year they also have plans to approach another business to provide grass. With the Don't Move a Mussel campaign, nine communities put up a total of 48 boat launch signs. They helped with the development of those signs. They have also had a call from a Yacht Club saying they want one of these signs. They launched a Speak Out campaign. The Board asked them to do something with the Don't Move a Mussel campaign in response to Redmond. They wanted to be involved somehow in trying to move the Province and Federal Government forward on action. On the website they have a speak out button and are asking people to go there, click the button and send a letter to your MLA. Dockside Marine partnered with them to create Don't Move a Mussel muscle shirts. These were given out throughout the area trying to push the message. It was wonderful to have Mia this summer doing outreach. She put together a spreadsheet outlining where everyone was so they weren't stepping on each other's toes. *(Comment: Expression of thanks extended to Corrine for all the work she does and continues to do on the communication side of these programs. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.)*
- Mr. Cumming (Westcoast CED): Appreciative of the presence of Don't Move a Mussel campaign and outreach at local boat launches. Commissionaires have been placed at every boat launch in the North Okanagan. They are also asking questions so the level of education is growing.
- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): The hydrometric monitoring program continues to expand, with partnership with RDOC. The project is on Shorts Creek and will be built the long standing Environment Canada record. The Wetland Program is going strong.
- Dr. Warwick Sears (OBWB): Noted the mention of a secretive project on endocrine disrupters in recent article is referring to Bruce Matheson's project on endocrine disrupters and goldfish. Tricia Brett has a proposal at UBCO to conduct high resolution tests on water quality that allow you to detect very low levels of hormones. High cost of testing water samples is a barrier but it is the first step in the support needed to address RDOS waste water treatment sent to wetlands.
- Mr. Littley (OBWB): The EcoAction Community Funding Program is now open. New issue with the return of salmon to Osoyoos Lake is what to do with the dead fish washing up on shore and the attraction of bears to residential areas.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be a council meeting on October 9, 2014 at the Best Western Inn in Kelowna.

9. ADJOURNMENT

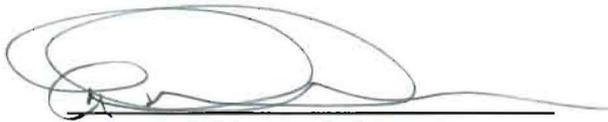
The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Moved by Evelyn Riechert

"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of September 11, 2014 be adjourned."

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Chair



Executive Director