

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, November 13, 2014, AT BEST WESTERN INN, 2402 HWY. 97N, KELOWNA, B.C.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.
BC Cattlemen's Association
BC Fruit Growers Association
BC Ministry of Agriculture
BC Water Supply Association
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
Canadian Water Resources Association
City of Kelowna
City of Vernon
Environment Canada – West and North
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Interior Health Authority
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board
Okanagan Nation Alliance
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Regional District of North Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
UBC Okanagan

Don Dobson, Chair
Lee Hesketh
Denise MacDonald
Andrew Petersen
Toby Pike
Doug Flintoft
Lorne Davies (alt)
Dwayne Meredith (alt)
Jason Ough
Rob Miles
Ian Rogalski
Doug Edwards
Rob Birtles
Carol Luttmmer
David O'Keefe
Natasha Lukey
Margaret Bakelaar
Renee Clark
Evelyn Riechert
Bernie Bauer

Regrets

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch
BC Agriculture Council
BC Ground Water Association
BC Min. Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (Resource Mgmt)
BC Min. Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (OSNR)
Canadian Water Resources Association
Okanagan College
Okanagan Forest Sector

Denise Neilsen
Hans Buchler
Remi Allard
Grant Furness
Ray Crampton
Brian Guy
Leif Burge
Kerry Rouck

STAFF:

OBWB, Executive Director
OBWB, Water Stewardship Director
OBWB, Office and Project Manager
OBWB, Communications Director
OBWB, Intern, UBCO Student

Anna Warwick Sears
Nelson Jatel
James Littley
Corinne Jackson
Ted Wannop

GUESTS:

AF Consulting Ltd,
BC Conservation Officers
Clarke Geoscience
Classic Compost Inc.
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
UBC Okanagan
UBC Okanagan
Westcoast CED Consulting

Christine Mettler
Nancy Fuller
Natasha Neuman
Johanna Faccini
Barbara Leslie
Jennifer Clarke
Dean Dack
Buffy Baumbrough
Candace Wagner
Zoe Kirk
Craig Nichol
John Janmaat
Karol Hansma

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE AGENDA

**Moved by Bernie Bauer
Seconded by Rob Birtles**

***“That the agenda for the November 13, 2014 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”
CARRIED***

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the October 9, 2014 Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting held at the Best Western Inn in Kelowna.

**Moved by Lorne Davis
Seconded by Doug Edwards**

***“That the minutes from the October 9, 2014 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”
CARRIED***

4. BOARD REPORT—Dr. Anna Warwick Sears

Dr. Warwick Sears reported on the water management program and the recent Osoyoos Lake Board of Control meeting. A large number of members of the public were in attendance; recognizing there is a lot of local interest. There is a group of citizens in Oroville that are planning to apply some aquatic herbicides on the south side of the lake which has generated some back and forth discussions and trying to balance out American vs Canadian views. There was some discussion on what would happen in the event of a drought. The Town of Osoyoos does not have a real drought plan in place. Their plan has the Board of Control raising the lake level. She clarified with the Board of Control that the extra stored water is for the fish and uses downstream.

The Department of Ecology and State of Washington do not have a plan for the Zosel Dam in terms of the potential invasion of zebra mussels. OBWB voted to send a letter to the Board of Control and the operator who works for the Washington Department of Environment to get them doing some planning for the potential arrival of zebra mussels.

OBWB voted to have another Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum in Fall 2015. This is a great gathering for the sharing of information and brings in water issues from up and down the US/Canadian watershed.

The deadline for water quality improvement grants is February 6, 2015.

Ms. Jackson presented to OBWB on the water survey results. 500 people were called randomly to gage the level of public awareness on water issues. Good to see that we are penetrating the public’s consciousness.

OBWB endorsed a letter to the Province of BC on groundwater regulations.

This was the last meeting for several Board members as some were not seeking re-election this year.

5. Committee Reports—Nelson Jatel

There were no committee meetings. Next month the Environmental Flow committee will meet.

Mr. Jatel talked about the importance of the committees. The Province asks for Council’s feedback in a very short period of time and OWSC was fortunate that the Groundwater committee had been set up and completed some preliminary work during a half day workshop. This allowed the group to send a recommendation to the Board which resulted in a letter being compiled for the Province. However, in preparing these types of submissions, the best case scenario would be that the Committee prepares the letter and brings it to Council and the Council then submits it to the Board for approval before it going to the Province. It is important that perspectives from the Okanagan be put forth to the Province. Mr. Dobson commented on the value of what committees can provide to this process and the influence OBWB, along with the support from OWSC, has with the Province at this time. He encouraged OWSC members to be involved with the committees. Mr. Bauer commented that the committee meeting times and agendas should be circulated to the whole group so other OWSC members can attend committee meetings if they are able.

With regards to Bill 18, which has been passed, the Province is working on two major focus areas: groundwater and water pricing. OWSC has the ability to influence systems ahead of the process.

There is some uncertainty about when the new water regulations will be out. Initially there was talk about April 1, 2015 but there has been some discussion about pushing back the timeframe.

The recent Tsilhqot’in decision (concept around First Nations and implications for Rights & Title as it relates to water) will impact the way in which resource-based projects in Canada are regulated and approved.

Water resource rents and pricing committee needs to reconvene.

Groundwater letter has been submitted to the Province electronically but there are opportunities to take considerations from this group and have it go forward.

The work Dr. Warwick Sears has been doing in talking to local governments and finding out where some of the gaps are is leading floodplain management and the exposure that local governments have to Bill 18.

We need to be mindful of how the committees and the conversations at these meetings inform the bigger question of what do we want to do for a water sustainability plan for the Okanagan; if we ever chose to do one. Local constituents have the ability to provide advice to senior levels of government. We can raise the bar for water management issues in the Okanagan. This is an opportunity to upload – What do we need in the Okanagan from a water management perspective and ultimately how can government help us realize some of those visions?

Phase 1 of the Wetland Strategy is now complete. OBWB and ONA held a joint news conference on November 7th announcing new funding from Environment Canada towards Phase 2 of the Okanagan Wetlands Strategy project. Mr. Jatel will be having conversations with Ms. Tamblin on prioritizing wetland projects in the Okanagan. They are looking to do six over the next two years.

There has been lots of media coverage and incredible interest in the project. There are a number of people involved now and very passionate about the wetlands. For more media, go to [obwb.ca/what's new](http://obwb.ca/what's%20new) or contact Corrine Jackson.

6. GUEST SPEAKER: Jennifer Clarke—Regional District of Central Okanagan: Flood Plain Mapping project introduction

Ms. Clarke is a Professional Geoscientist based out of the Okanagan. This project received partial funding through the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement grant program and is basically about developing the projects' terms of reference and a process for determining flood risks in the Central Okanagan. The emphasis is on the outcome and not necessarily prescribing specific methodologies. RDCO is challenged with dealing with hazards to existing developments. They must work within the constraints of Emergency Management BC and their policies in order to protect property. There needs to be a way to address existing hazards, i.e., not allow development on flood prone lands, and address issues with larger lots facing subdivision. The multi jurisdictional nature of water is a big challenge and the impacts downstream from

events in rural areas where floods generate.

There is updated flood plain mapping for Lower Mission Creek, Mill Creek and Okanagan Lake but RDCO needs to deal with the lack of floodplain maps. They are doing this through zoning bylaws and various OCP policies to “discourage development that may be damaged from being located on land that might be flooded as identified by the setbacks and elevation provisions. They also reference the Provincial Flood Hazard Land Use Management Guidelines (2004). The setbacks and provisions that RDCO uses are 15 to 30 m setback horizontally from the natural boundary (mean annual flood) of a stream or creek and 1.5 to 3 m elevation and 7.5 m setback from wetlands and other flood body of waters. This is RDCO's mechanisms for dealing with flood hazards. The challenges are that existing structures in the floodplain area remain at risk until there is some trigger (i.e., building permit or development permit). There is a general lack of understanding the floodplain risks are dealt with at the local government level.

RDCO is hoping they can develop a framework for flood prone lands that will reduce flood risks, strengthen the ability of local government to limit development in flood prone lands, and allow for a consistent and coordinated approach by achieving consensus on a regional basis and other areas can follow a similar framework.

The framework consists of: Flood Plain Management Plan (context and background for flood hazards), Identification of areas that need more analysis (prioritization criteria), Flood Hazard Assessment (analytical component including hydrologic analysis, hydraulic modeling, mapping, climate change scenarios, site specific factors), Risk Assessment (what components are at risk), and Mitigate Risk (strategies like avoidance).

RDCO is looking for input from OWSC in moving forward. The Terms of Reference is being put together to hire consultants to complete the work.

7. ROUNDTABLE – MEMBER UPDATES

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Mr. Bauer (UBCO): Nothing to report at this time.
- Rob Birtles (IHA): The IH pilot project for algae is complete. Two algae blooms were discovered. One was toxic but outside of the Okanagan regional and the other which was inside the region was non-toxic.
- Mr. Littley (OBWB): The call for applications for water conservation grants has gone out. There will be a small difference in the scoring of applications. Applications which target specific

- areas/projects will receive extra points.
- Ms. Lukey (ONA): In the fall, ONA on behalf of the Canadian Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group and the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative Steering Committee did some more floodplain enhancement. The Penticton spawning platforms were near or at spawning capacity. They have an aerial photo of the platform showing reeds (will send picture to Nelson to send out).
 - Mr. O'Keefe (OMREB): The economy is up and residential sales are up.
 - Mr. Meredith (CWRA): On November 18th, CWRA is holding a workshop in Vancouver on Quantifying Future Water Availability in a Changing Climate.
 - Ms. Luttmer (OCCP): They are a part of the Okanagan Wetlands Strategy which fits with their current flagship project which is the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Okanagan Region. This project is in partnership with the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program. They are working towards the strategic directions outlined in the strategy and specific recommendations for stewardship and conservation. OCCP has brought on Buffy Baumbrough to work with them in the North and Central Okanagan.
 - Ms. MacDonald (BCFGA): Nothing at this time.
 - Mr. Flintoft/Mr. Davies (BCWF): Expanding on the wetland program, the BCWF has a Wetland Education Program coordinator, Neil Fletcher, who has been involved in the Okanagan program. He is involved in a number of education programs in the Okanagan (i.e., Wetland Institute); see the BCWF website page. BCWF continues to work on grassland restoration and fishery projects like Kokanee in the creeks. They are heavily involved in hands on projects and creating linkages and partnerships.
 - John Janmaat (UBCO): Helping a student finish up their PhD looking at land use change. Projects: overall land use forecast for identifying areas where x is likely; efforts to protect the forests which has the undesirable consequences of pushing development onto agriculture land which highlights the importance of getting policies to jive. Also looking at stream rehabilitation work, ongoing conversations with IH.
 - Ms. Mettler (independent): No report
 - Mr. Hesketh (BCCA): There is lots of activity going on in the Shuswap at the moment but it has been quiet in the Okanagan. The price of beef is up.
 - Mr. Pike (BCWSA): BCWSA held their AGM last month (Oct 23-24). They had a good turnout with good presentations. They took part in a water pricing conference call with some of the regulators in Victoria to discuss their proposals for water pricing regulations coming up next year; interesting conversation. RDCO passed a resolution supporting an application from the SE Kelowna Irrigation District to Government of BC to change a license of occupation on a road SEKID has in their watershed from public to private.
 - Ms. Fuller (guest): She is information gathering and seeing what is going on in the Okanagan.
 - Ms. Faccini (engineering consultant): Hydrologic modelling and engineering for water utilities.
 - Mr. Ough (City of Kelowna): Mill Creek Upper Watershed storage recommendations that may not be all focussed in upper but down where Scotty Creek and Mill Creek converge with water issues in the area of the airport (mitigation initiatives). The City is working on a sewer master plan. The scope of the plan is big as it goes out to 2070 and deals with growth projection. The challenge with this lies with capturing growth. The plan is a catch all looking at anything sanitary sewer related. Some of the main challenges are the North Industrial area, the continuity of the conveyance system through the airport, and growth to outlying areas that may not have been captured in the 2030 OCP.
 - Ms. Neumann (UBCO/guest): They have funding from RDOS to develop analytical methods for seven contaminants that occur at very low concentrations. How do we measure these in the environment? Looking at Okanagan River and Okanagan Lake.
 - Mr. Nichol (UBCO): Wrapping up a projects in the North Okanagan on regional groundwater resources and chemistry; Fortune Creek stream flow and temperature; groundwater discharge; nitrate leaching over Abbotsford aquifer. He is just back from a conference in California. California is in a severe, multiyear drought. Proposition 1 is a \$7.2-billion water bond for upgrading water infrastructure. He was very surprised to find that their level of governance on groundwater is behind where we are at. It is regulated on a county by county basis. Our new groundwater rules are centralized and the same across the provinces.
 - Doug Edwards (DFO): He has just spent some time in the North Okanagan. Busy working with partners and proponents on a number of different funding programs including the habitat stewardship program. The application period for the fourth round of the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program is

- now open. Applications will be accepted for one-year projects taking place in 2015-16. The application period closes December 12, 2014.
- Ms. Clark (RDNO): The major issue for RDNO at the moment is the referendum for their master water plan which is being voted on November 15th.
 - Mr. Rogalski (EC): Currently, applications under the Habitat Stewardship Program and EcoAction are being reviewed throughout BC. They are accepting applications under the National Wetlands Conservation Fund. The deadline is November 21st. This year, \$1.2 million was awarded across 12 projects in BC. At least four of those projects were specific to applications in the Okanagan (ONA, OSSS, BCWF).
 - Mr. Dack (Classic Compost): turning hayfields into compost and he has a great interest in consumer education on water and water quality and helping people to understand that soil is alive.
 - Ms. Bakelaar (RDCO): Work continues on wetland rehabilitation. RDCO was part of the fencing work done south of Peachland. Nelson made a presentation to the Board on wetlands which was well received. They look forward to moving forward with the identification of other wetlands for restoration. Stream restoration continues. Connectivity with UBCO across the landscape. Doing costing for ecological surfaces.
 - Mr. Petersen (MAG): Working on soil moisture projects. Putting together an overarching report but it is proving to be more difficult than original thought. There has been a call for new, innovative projects. The deadline is December 6th. Busy with the new Water Act.
 - Ms. Wagner (RDOS): Meter pit installations are complete. The first water usage invoice has been sent out. Naramata water main replacements and meter pits installation taking place. They are looking at backup power for Naramata water system.
 - Ms. Riechert (RDOS): November 6th was the last working board meeting until next year. Concept plans for sewage extension to Kaledon are under review.
 - Ms. Kirk (RDOS): Compost project, Love your Lawn, successful with 1700 tonnes of compost given away. Water conservation project – giving people incentive to think of alternatives for the landscape. The 2014/15 RBC Blue Water grant has been utilized. A demonstration rain garden is almost finished at RDOS. They will be planting it in the spring. Looking at the potential of similar projects in RDNO and RDCO.
 - Ms. Leslie (Conservation): The first to see mussels at the border. Many thanks to the Board for their letters to the government, advertising, and education. There will be a planning meeting in early December regarding compliance and enforcement program and raising the elevation of knowledge. Off-road Vehicle Act was passed for the registration of all ATVs and snow machines operating on public land. Voluntary compliance is in effect. Mandatory registration begins June 1, 2015. This is inclusive of those out of province. They are required to be licensed either in their own province or in BC.
 - Ms. Jackson (OBWB): A short film to raise awareness on Don't move a mussel is being produced by an independent, local actor. It will show the beauty of the Okanagan and then visit areas infested by mussels. Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association is interested in having a Chamber to Chamber event to share information, and raise greater awareness of the mussel threat. The final results of the recent survey are being developed. The survey looked at general understanding of water issues and OBWB but also tested awareness of the campaigns being undertaken by OBWB. Some of the greatest concerns citizens have are: forest fires, water quality and invasive mussels. Water shortages are not a big concern. A high percentage of residents are conserving water by watering their lawns less (#1) and turning the tap off (#2). Approximately 74% indicated they have heard of invasive mussels. The #1 concern with mussels is that they will destroy/ruin the ecosystem of the lakes. Billboards were rated as the #1 place for seeing the advertising. Corrine will be putting together and distributing a formal report.
 - Ms. Warwick Sears (OBWB): Focus has been on helping everyone with their projects and she expects things to be pretty quiet over the next couple of months as OBWB is in a project development phase. The next round of big projects will be determined by the next Board but she sees Wetlands and Mussels as being prominent as well as the implementation of the Water Act. She welcomes all ideas as we move forward into a new year.
 - Mr. Dobson (APEGBC): Last year, the Forest Practices Board did a review of how assessments are being done in community watersheds around the Province. One of the most significant outcomes of the review was the fact that there is a real issue with the way people are interpreting the word assessment and applying it across the various individuals that carry out these assessments. APEGBC has a

joint practices board with the Professional Foresters. The intent of that Board is to deal with issues across the two associations. APEGS works with the government to develop guidance documents on how things should be done. They hope to be successful in getting a group together to develop a guidebook to provide guidance on watershed assessments with regards, primarily, to forest activities in the watersheds. There is a huge diversity in interpretation not only by individuals or consultants carrying out the assessments but also by forest companies requesting the assessments be done and agencies (Forest, Lands and Natural Resource operations) who review the reports. Hopeful that it will result in a better, more uniform way in which assessments are carried out. How does this work with source protection assessments required by IH. Is there any dialogue about unifying those assessments or having the one inform the other in some sort of way? Once a

committee has been formed, input will be sought in moving forward and developing linkages.

- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): Raised the question about whether the January meeting should be cancelled by asking for a show of hands to cancel the meeting. There were no hands raised.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be Thursday, December 11, 2014 from 12:30 to 4:30 at the Best Western Inn in Kelowna.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

Moved by Doug Flintoft

"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of November 13, 2014 be adjourned."

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Chair



Executive Director