

# OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

*A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board*

## MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, March 12, 2015, AT OKANAGAN REGIONAL LIBRARY, 1430 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C.

---

### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

#### Present

Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.  
BC Agriculture Council  
BC Cattlemen's Association  
BC Fruit Growers Association  
BC Ground Water Association  
BC Ministry of Agriculture  
BC Min. Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (Resource Mgmt)  
BC Min. Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (OSNR)  
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8  
Canadian Water Resources Association  
City of Kelowna  
Environment Canada – West and North  
Okanagan Forest Sector  
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board  
Okanagan Nation Alliance  
Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Regional District of North Okanagan  
UBC Okanagan

Don Dobson, Chair  
Hans Buchler  
Lee Hesketh  
Denise MacDonald (alt)  
Marta Green  
Andrew Petersen  
Grant Furness  
Shawn Reimer (alt)  
Doug Flintoft  
Brian Guy  
Jason Ough  
Ian Rogalski  
Murray Wilson  
David O'Keefe  
Natasha Lukey  
Margaret Bakelaar  
Anna Page (alt)  
Bernie Bauer

#### Regrets

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch  
BC Ground Water Association  
BC Min. Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (OSNR)  
BC Water Supply Association  
City of Kelowna  
City of Vernon  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Interior Health Authority  
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program  
Okanagan College  
Okanagan Forest Sector  
Okanagan Nation Alliance  
Regional District of North Okanagan  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Denise Nielsen  
Remi Allard  
Ray Crampton  
Toby Pike  
Jason Angus  
Rob Miles  
Doug Edwards  
Rob Birtles (Vice Chair)  
Carol Luttmner  
Leif Burge  
Kerry Rouck  
Zoe Masters  
Renee Clark  
Evelyn Riechert

#### STAFF:

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

Anna Warwick Sears  
Nelson Jatel  
James Littley  
Corinne Jackson  
Ted Wannop

#### GUESTS:

Piscine Energetics  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
Water Cycles  
WaterSmith Research  
Westcoast CED Consulting

Dallas Chelick  
Nuri Fisher  
John Janmaat  
Jonathan Beppe  
Natasha Neuman  
Christine Mettler  
Russell Smith  
Karol Hansma

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVE AGENDA**

There were two changes made to the agenda. OWSC will not be meeting next week but will be meeting again in May. The date is May 14<sup>th</sup> and not the 15<sup>th</sup>. The other change is regarding the order of reporting. The Board reports will be first and then there will be the presentations. Carol Luttmmer extended her apologies as she will not be available to present and the ONA presentation on the agenda will not be a formal presentation. Natasha Lukey will provide an overview of what is happening at ONA.

**Moved by Bernie Bauer  
Seconded by Tara**

***“That the agenda for the March 12, 2015 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”  
CARRIED***

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Margaret Bakelaar  
Seconded by Bernie Bauer**

***“That the minutes from the February 12, 2015 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved with the above concern noted.”  
CARRIED***

**4. BOARD REPORT—Dr. Anna Warwick Sears**

Dr. Warwick Sears had to attend to another matter and Nelson spoke a bit about the last Board meeting. It was hosted in Penticton and both the Chair and Vice Chair were in attendance. They have a new Board in place and there was good engagement with the new members. Next week is world wide water week and there are a number of events that will be going on in the area.

**5. Committee Reports—Nelson Jatel**

Two formal committees were made last year. First, is the Groundwater committee which has been reinvigorated and will be meeting later this month. Let Nelson know if you are interested in attending the meeting. The agenda for the groundwater committee meeting is being set but one of the topics they will be looking at is the application of FITFIR to Groundwater and developing a number of specific and practical scenarios, in the Okanagan, that could inform policy. The second item up for discussion is that they have

successfully applied for a grant that is to help inform the province for new bylaw regulation sets. They province is developing it. It is a new bylaw around surface runoff going to ground. They have just hired a consulting firm that is being led by Kelly Garcia. They are hoping to have the project completed in the next 2-3 months.

The other major committee is one regarding the need to create water use plans but within that is the need to have discussion around environmental flows and environmental fish flows. They are thinking of dividing this committee into two groups: 1) to talk about appropriate site specific, sub-basin ways to organize partners and stakeholders and governments in a way that allows them to be able to apply environmental flows and address some of the issues around conflict and conflict avoidance; 2) a team of people to talk about how we get better environmental flows and better modelling for environmental flows.

Recently, a third group has emerged. If they are going to create hydrologic rule sets then it is equally important to be able to apply similar thinking to the licensing system.

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, the District of Lake Country had a good Town Hall with discussions about what is going on in their watershed. Phil Epp (retired but providing consulting services) is lending his expertise and drawing from Best Practices from other areas of the Okanagan all of which seem to be serving Lake Country really well.

Another model of best practices is what has happened in the Kettle River Basin. They have developed something called fish sustainability plans which seem to be another model that is a grassroots, bottom up approach to get people around to talk about how we manage low flows in a meaningful way that isn't disrespectful to the agricultural sector but also speaks to social license as it relates to environmental flows and fish flows.

5 or 6 years ago, OBWB embarked on the most comprehensive supply-demand study that we have seen and now they are looking to have the same kind of level of effort to be able to support better understanding of environmental flows in the Okanagan. If anyone would like to be part of the discussions that are going on, please get in touch with Nelson.

Q: Bernie Bauer wonders where this is all going → the long-term end game is obviously sustainable water management and the sub-committees are working towards specific products, i.e. the ground water tools kit, but what is the interim goal of

these or the 5 year vision. A: The big goal is to have water licensing and water use managed differently and better than it used to be. The environmental flow models that are currently used are inadequate. Within the next 5 years, OWSC has an opportunity to provide for tools that are used by water license allocation to be able to better manage water licenses which allows them to be in a much better position. Throughout all of the efforts that have gone into Phase 2 of the Supply & Demand study; it still has not influenced how water licenses are managed in the Okanagan. This is a stepping stone to create tools to move forward and the environmental flow piece is critical.

Q: What about influencing the development of regulations. A: That is ongoing and there will always be concurrent groups working on it. In the past, OWSC has been successful in influencing some of the regulations and acts and now is in a position to influence are the regulations for the WSA and specifically how groundwater is treated within WSA. As the Acts and regulations come out, OWSC has an opportunity to respond to them in a meaningful way. Throughout this process, they will likely find opportunities where there are gaps in policy. For example, right now there is an opportunity to play a significant role in supporting better policy around wetland protection in the Okanagan. They are in the process of finishing up a communication tool which will initially look at 9 wetlands in the Okanagan. They are putting together stories (Don Gatton) on the wetlands and the hope is to be able to add more stories to the website over time. The website will allow students to enter their photos of these wetlands. Over time, we can look back and see how wetlands change over the seasons through the eyes of students but also professional photographers, etc.

Q: Hans Buchler had a comment regarding adjusting licenses and water use; is this new licenses or existing licenses. A: There is not much opportunity to deal with existing license but there is an opportunity to have conversations about new licenses and whether or not they should be simply a volume of water or a volume of water that is regulated.

## 6. ROUNDTABLE – MEMBER UPDATES

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): They are just wrapping up year end and there are two or three key projects they are finishing up: 1) work with the Ministry of Agriculture on a water reporting tool on BC Water Use Reporting Centre is coming to an end but they have applied for some additional funding; 2) year one of a two year

Phase 2 Wetlands Strategy is winding down; the Hydrometric Monitoring Station project has a successful year with three stations up and looking at a couple of more in the short term; 4) working on developing vision and funding opportunities for next year. Q: Is there any more activity on the groundwater wells project? Are there still opportunities to expand? A: The project is not closed but on hold probably until regulations get announced this summer.

- Ms. Warwick Sears (OBWB): focus has been on the Environmental flow project right now. Working with FLNRO on how we move rationally forward with a water licensing system for the Okanagan; how can it incorporate a local voice, local needs, and local data sets; and doing it collaboratively and for it not to be a unilateral project out of Victoria or Kamloops. Just had a conference call with RBC regarding a water attitude study that gets released during Canada Water Week. Canadians are confident of their water quality but don't necessarily value it. 25% don't care where their water comes from. The group that is least concerned about their water are the millennials.
- Mr. Buchler (BCAC): Nothing at this time.
- Mr. Hesketh (BCCA): OBWB helped support a project in the Oyama watershed and he will be organizing a possible tour in the spring (May or June). Not only will the invite go out to their producers in order for them to see what is happening out in the watershed but also hoping to invite OWSC members to participate. It is all about keeping people informed.
- Ms. Neumann (guest): private consultant working in the areas of ecohydrology, hydrometric data, estrogens, pharmaceutical and water. She has been involved on the Middle Vernon Creek Action Plan which is a hydrometric water balance study to support better management of flows in the Winfield area. They had their stakeholder meeting the other day. They are moving into year four of five and collecting more data to close in on some of the uncertainties they have as it is a complicated watershed. The final report for the last year will be coming out soon. She is planning to attend the instream flow council workshop in Portland.
- Ms. Lukey (ONA): The fish water management tool (primarily collaboration between DFO, Province, ONA) is an attempt to balance the needs of people and fish in the South Okanagan. It is a multi parameter tool used to make decisions for the Okanagan Lake river systems. The managers are looking at modernizing and updating the tool. The fall brood stock at the fish hatchery has been sampled for disease (ongoing) and morphology

has been conducted. Thermal auto lift marking (regulating the temperature of the emerged fry's' environment) has occurred. Fish are doing well in the hatchery. A release date has not yet been determined. The Rotary Screw traps near Shingle Creek were just installed. They are to capture the wild stock as they start making their way back to Osoyoos Lake (smolting). They are tagged so they can see trends in migration. There is proposed weir to try and integrate modern science with traditional fisheries practices. The weir will go up during the fall run and will let Kokanee through but will capture hatchery fish. They are looking into the dynamics between Kokanee and hatchery sockeye. The proposed location is by the Golf Course Bridge or the old KVR Bridge. On the habitat side of things, in the fall, the flood plain wetland impression enhancements were conducted. The ORI 2 side channel is ongoing adaptive management and 5 years of monitoring have been secured. In terms of the habitat behaviour, natural gravel recruitment is occurring on the spawning bed which is great as means that the river is doing what rivers do and it is building on the spawning habitat of the fish. The target species, juvenile rainbow trout and sockeye, are using the ORI Phase 1 and Phase 2 habitat structures. There is ongoing water level monitoring. For the Pentiction spawning beds number 1 and 2, the sockeye spawned near 100% capacity in the Pentiction channel. Juvenile trout are also using the boulders in the Pentiction channel. There is decreased Eurasian milfoil after year one and there are nine loggers in the channel and surrounding area to monitor the progress and scope out future options. They are aiming for the Fall of 2015 for construction on the Pentiction channel spawning bed #3. There will be another spawning platform, additional boulder clusters and an enhanced pool. In the North Okanagan, ONA and Wilsey Dam Fish Passage Community are moving forward with acoustic tag testing in the spring. The purpose is to determine if the acoustic tag technology is suitable for determining fish passage routes through the dam.

- Mr. Reimer (FLNRO). His role is to do with the Okanagan River flows and lake levels. Provided some discussion on flows and projections for this year in terms of the Okanagan River. They have had two inflow forecasts on Okanagan Lake so far. February was around normal and March 1 was about 85% of normal. He has had some discussions with David Campbell who feels that the forecast is probably a high estimate for this time of year and is expected it

to be pretty dry this year but we have had a much greater than normal inflow for this time of the year. The Lake is 25 cm higher than it was at this time last year. Have some flexibility to keep the flows within Okanagan River within the levels that they would like to see them.

- Mr. Janmaat (UBCO): He has been working stuff for water week. On the Tuesday, there is a showing of a film called the Paddler in which a man, determined to raise awareness about environmental issues, paddles on his stand-up paddle for nearly 1,500 days in a row to get attention. On the Thursday, there is a celebration at UBCO, the 3<sup>rd</sup> UBCO Water Research Splashdown after that, and then a social at the pub that evening. He was part of a CBC interview. A group called sumofus.org put out a petition to raise signatures in opposition to the \$2.25/million litres rate for water. This got into the media and brought the water pricing thing back into the forefront. Most people think that this rate is way to low.
- Mr. O'Keefe (OMREB): Acknowledged Anna's attendance at the AGM of the BC Real Estate Foundation and she gave a bit of a presentation.
- Ms. Bakelaar (RDCO): The District of Lake Country completed the Oyama Vernon Creek Source Water Assessment with IHA a couple of years ago and came up with a table for means to implement the report's recommendations. This is a multi use, community watershed with a range of users and often conflicts. Lake Country is pulling all of the stakeholders together and trying, on an annual basis, to fill in the tables from the report with what progress has been. Ms. Bakelaar provided an update for Carol Luttmmer (OCCP). The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy implementation is being worked on. They are also looking at updating their government structure and are hoping to afford greater opportunity for partners to participate in the OCCP. The form they are looking at taking is the same as the City of Vernon Social Planning Council. OBWB is an example of what they want to follow. The Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society has moved into the Central and North Okanagan and has signed their first stewardship agreement with a land owner (winery). They continue to work with BC Wildlife Federation to bring wetland education programming to North and Central Okanagan. Carol presented at the Mainline Real Estate Board AGM, together with the Province, on docks.
- Ms. Page (RDNO): They are working on finalizing the Kal Lake Water Treatment

- Response plan. They are working on a number of spring/summer education activities. Undertaking a project on Swan Lake with OBWB regarding water quality. The lake currently has very little information on water quality. The motivation for RDNO is that there is no sewer on the land around the lake and they would like to know the impact.
- Mr. Ough (City of Kelowna): One of the projects they are involved in at the moment is an Intake Risk Assessment. This has a large effect on the City of Kelowna's ability to keep the Eldorado source in service over time. Eldorado has pretty good source water quality but it does see some creek influence. The goal of this assessment is to ensure UV is effective for disinfection. They are looking at the coarseness or size of the turbidity particles (has a lot to do with the risk as well as the level of NTU. They are hoping to see that the turbidity is fine enough that the risk may be lower than what has been identified. They will probably end up with recommendation for particle counters that will give them an idea of size of turbidity. He is optimistic that they will see some favorable outcomes. The other project is about the Cedar Creek Intake and the UV component of meeting the 4-3-2-1-0 has been underway for years. The treatment component is now complete and going through the commissioning process.
  - Mr. Peterson (BCMA): Works with water and irrigation for the Province. The BC Water Use reporting centre project is finishing up Phase 2 and getting funding in place for Phase 3. Hoping it will be adopted by FLNRO as a tool to do the water use recording. He has just finished up oil moisture study. These are done annually and show how soil profile dries through the season. He does a lot of work around supporting the water stewardship staff at FLNRO.
  - Ms. McDonald (BDFGA): Had their AGM last month and got unanimous approval to aid the Okanagan Nation Board in developing a drought management plan. They are also encouraging the uptake of the Investment Agriculture Foundations' pilot project to do Watershed planning. There is about \$70,000 available for municipal governments or watersheds to do watershed planning projects. They are asking for the program to be extended because it has merit but has not has a lot of uptake. With regards to the Lands Inventory project, if data is being collected then it would be nice if it included data to that could help us understand the different ways water purveyors are charging for water. Need to be flexible in the irrigation season or is there a way to adjust allocation for use later on in the season. Working on strategic development of BC apple and sweet cherry varieties.
  - Ms. Mettler (guest): New to the Okanagan. Currently working at establishing a consulting company.
  - Mr. Beppe (UBCO): Masters at UBCO working on a project using computer modelling/individual based modelling to simulate residential water use in Kelowna and how residential water use can be affected by a range of different demand side management options.
  - Dallas Chelick (UBCO): Studying a double major in economics and environmental sciences. He recently got a grant with Dr. Jannmaat developing a model to potentially explore the usefulness of a drought contract option.
  - Ms. Green (BCGWA): Held their annual conference at the Grand at the beginning of March. Finding that money is dwindling and they may be looking at scaling back the conference or piggy backing on another conference in the future.
  - Ms. Jackson (OBWB): Make Water Work, 2015 Campaign for Outdoor Water Conservation—met with the marketing team to develop the campaign and put on their radar that OBWB will be looking at having some drought messaging developed and ready to go for this year. Canada Water Week – Wetlands theme. A number of activities throughout the week.
  - Mr. Fisher (Piscine Energetics): Harvesting invasive mysis shrimp on Okanagan Lake for the past decade.
  - Mr. Wilson (OFS): Last fall, they invested quite heavily in lidar and they have been pushing quite hard to get the Province to buy into lidar. On the roadside, the Forest Practices Board will be releasing a big report on forest roads. There is an interactive map application with all the roads in the province. Road frequencies may be changing and there has been lots of talk on setting the radio channels. Not sure of all the details but it looks like there will be five frequencies. It impacts people who go into the in forest operating areas and they need to know that they need to get their radio frequencies updated. Is base mapping using lidar available to other users—not yet. But, there is an opportunity for more collaborative approach. As a result of lidar, they will be able to do more harvesting on steeper slopes.
  - Mr. Furness (FLNRO): Most of their staff that is involved in water management, took part in a 2 – 2 ½ day session focused on trying get a better understanding on how they work together in the new Ministry. They are going to

- meet with Penticton City Council regarding Rocky Mountain Ridge Mussels and are hoping this will result in a stewardship agreement with them. Within the City of Penticton boundary, the Rocky Mountain Ridge mussel is only at three mile beach.
- Mr. Bauer (UBCO): Roxanne Snook, who is working on creating a habitat suitability model for the Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel, found in the Okanagan Basin, is making a presentation (March 17<sup>th</sup>) at UBCO. There has been lots of activity on campus around water but nothing really coordinated. Now there is talk about coordinating it. They are looking a submitting a proposal to get money to establish a centre for undergraduate research.
  - Mr. Flintoft (BCWF): Heavily involved in wetlands project and focus has been trying to engage member fish and game clubs in the region to expand this project to all avenues.
  - Mr. Rogalski (EC): There was a Federal/ Provincial/Territorial ministers meeting on conservation wildlife and biodiversity. There were talks on shared priorities and agreements; continuing to work together and collaborate on things like biodiversity, ecosystem surfaces, and invasive alien species. They announced the adoption of the 2020 Biodiversity goals and targets for Canada. This provide the basis for measuring and reporting on progress made to protect and conserve biodiversity across the country through several initiatives
  - Mr. Wannop (OBWB): OBWB Intern student – presenting on different governments collaborating to manage resources. He will be finishing up a report on this in a few weeks.
  - Mr. Littley (OBWB): Took part in a conference in Wenatchi (conference call) for the Upper Columbia invasive weed groups. Talks were about fish kill from a milfoil bed where the milfoil was so thick that the fish were swimming in and running out of oxygen, suffocating and dying. There have been a number of surveys funded by the US Department of Reclamation and each county is basically getting a better handle on their invasive aquatic weeds. In the east, they have identified two new algae's – a blue green algae that kills fish overnight and another one that grows on hydrilla and is feared to be related to the deaths of eagles. There is also a remote lake that is accessible only by float plane that is infested with milfoil. He has also been participating in a newly established CBT Invasive Species working group looking at what role invasive species councils can do versus what the province has a responsibility to do.
  - Mr. Dobson (BCAPEG): He has had the opportunity to attend a number of annual follow up meetings lately. 1) the update on the Duteau Creek Source Protection Plan – interesting to see how the implementation is occurring and the collaboration that exists between the various agencies and licensed stakeholders. 2) Range meeting for CO and see the work that Range unit and the ranchers and water suppliers are doing. There is a huge amount of interaction going on between the range group in FLNRO, forest licensees and the ranchers, all about water and how forest harvesting can open up areas and make easier access to water. 3) Update on the Middle Vernon Creek meeting and the work that Phil Epp has been doing in working towards an approach to address an issue that involves the collaboration of the District of Lake Country/Government/Fish and Game club and how or when it can release water when fish are coming into the creek and the fact that there is a major beaver problem along the middles section of the creek. 4) The Black Mountain Irrigation District Board has approved the undertaking of a source protection plan for Mission Creek.
  - Mr. Guy (CWRA): He will be speaking at the CWRA National Conference (Hydrologic Extremes) in Winnipeg June 2-4 on climate change. Another conference in Red Deer on climate change adaptation, April 20-21. The Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum is October 7-9. It is a good technical conference and. CWRA is thinking of putting together a short session on the status of the Columbia River Treaty negotiations. July 6-7 is the International Forestry Conference at UBCO. The BCWWA conference is May 29-31 and Anna is chairing.

## **7. GUEST PRESENTATION—NURI FISHER (PISCINE ENERGETICS)**

Piscine Energetics provides the highest quality aquarium and aquaculture food to the market. This is made from mysis shrimp harvested from the North end of Okanagan Lake.

Mysis shrimp were introduced into freshwater lakes in BC in 1966. These organisms were introduced in hopes of boosting the productivity of the lakes, providing extra forage for game fish; particularly Kokanee and enhancing the fisheries industry. Decisions for the introduction were based on several other lakes that had observed increased productivity within a few years after the introduction of mysis shrimp. However, it has been discovered that while mysis shrimp are a good prey item for large Kokanee, they are not good for Kokanee aged less than one year. The major food

source for young Kokanee in these lakes is zooplankton. Unfortunately, zooplankton is also the preferred food item for mysis shrimp which leads to competition for the same food source. The mysis shrimp are more efficient predators than the Kokanee. They feed during the night, whereas the Kokanee do not, and they have a rapid generation time. Mysis shrimp have few predators and normally inhabit different zones of the lake than the Kokanee. To make matters worse, deep lakes provide vertical migration for the mysis shrimp to avoid adult salmon predation and promote rampant reproduction

Piscine has developed a technique to harvest mysis shrimp. Because Salmon fry are not strong swimmers and get caught in the net, traditional netting would result in 100% mortality and therefore is not suitable for harvesting practices. Through the development of a special patented fishing method, shrimp are captured live with no by-catch (salmon, trout or other non-targeted species). The mysis shrimp are harvested at night near the surface. Piscine Energetics is the only company allowed to fish for mysis at night.

## **8. PRESENTATION—TED WANNOP**

Ted is an intern at OBWB working on a research project regarding co-management and some of the modeling going on in BC for First Nations and Senior Government to be able to work collectively, together. He is conducting research on the co-management of resources between Federal, Provincial and First Nation governments. They are interested in the subject of co-management in order to gain greater consensus in the management of resources, particularly water, in order to utilize and integrate the beliefs, knowledge, and structures of different groups; respect all partners; benefit from shared resources; and work together to benefit litigation. He provided some examples, both successful and potential, and recommendations for building relationships between OBWB and First Nation groups of the Okanagan. The first example given was the Gwaii Haanas National Reserve. The Archipelago Management Board (AMB) governs the planning, operations and management of the park and marine areas under the Gwaii Haanas Agreement. The Haida view the area as Haida land and the Government views the land as Crown land and yet they are able to co-manage.

The Tsilhqot'in case against the Province of BC represents an example of an opportunity to be able to co-manage resources and work to avoid litigation in the future. It is a turning point in how future aboriginal land claims will be reviewed. The Tsilhqot'in is a group of six bands that share a

common culture and history. After years of disputes about forest licenses, the Tsilhqot'in laid claim to their Territory. Last year, the Supreme Court of Canada granted Tsilhqot'in aboriginal title to approximately 2000 km<sup>2</sup>. "Aboriginal title confers on aboriginal groups the exclusive right to decide how the land is used and the exclusive right to benefit from those uses." There are 62 First Nations in various stages of the negotiation process in BC and this decision will have a great effect on these decisions.

The Site C Dam project is a potential co-management opportunity that is facing difficulty. Site C is an approved, high capacity dam on the Peace River near Fort St. John. It will flood a significant area of agricultural land and First Nations burial grounds. The Province and BC Hydro have approved this project even though findings from the joint review panel indicate such things as "the project having an adverse effect on fishing opportunities and practices for the area First Nations; effects which cannot be mitigated." This is an example where the groups are having trouble co-managing the resource.

The following are agreements that are in place within the Okanagan – approval for the Westbank First Nation to appoint a council representative to the regional board of RDCO; memorandum of understanding between Westbank First Nation and City of Kelowna 2010, and between Westbank First Nation and District of West Kelowna 2010; South Okanagan Protocol Agreement between the Regional District Okanagan Similkameen with Penticton Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band and Lower Similkameen Indian Band 2013; City of Vernon and Okanagan Indian Band; OKIB have similar agreements with Lumby, Lake Country, Spallumcheen and Armstrong.

The following recommendation was given at the OBWB meeting in developing their relationship with ONA: OBWB will write three letters to the Chief's Executive Council. One is to request for their participation in the collaborative development of a water licensing process for the Okanagan. The second is to express OBWB's interest in a Protocol agreement between OBWB and ONA. The third is to request for ONA to express their concerns about the need for immediate action by the province to prevent the spread of invasive mussels to BC).

Some of the conclusions put forth were: co-management can be effective and is necessary; there are ways to efficiently co-manage; and we should continue to build relationships in the Okanagan.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be Thursday, May 14, 2015 from 12:30 to 4:30 at Okanagan Regional Library, 1430 KLO Road Kelowna.

10.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Moved by Andrew Reader**

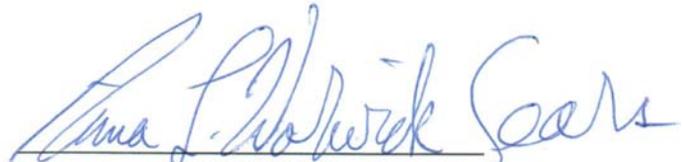
*"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of March 12, 2015 be adjourned."*

**CARRIED**

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**



Chair



Executive Director