

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

AMENDED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, May 14, 2015, AT OKANAGAN REGIONAL LIBRARY, 1430 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch
Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.
BC Agriculture Council
BC Fruit Growers Association
BC Ground Water Association
BC Ministry of Agriculture
BC Min. Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (Resource Mgmt)
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
Canadian Water Resources Association
City of Kelowna
Environment Canada – West and North
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Interior Health Authority
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Okanagan Forest Sector
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Regional District of North Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
UBC Okanagan

Denise Neilsen
Don Dobson
Hans Buchler
Denise MacDonald (alt)
Marta Green
Andrew Petersen
Grant Furness
Doug Flintoft
Lorne Davies (alt)
Dwayne Meredith (alt)
Jason Ough
Ian Rogalski
Doug Edwards
Rob Birtles
Carol Luttmmer
Murray Wilson
Margaret Bakelaar
Renee Clark
Roger Houston
Bernie Bauer

Regrets

BC Cattlemen's Association
BC Ground Water Association
BC Min. Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (OSNR)
BC Min. Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (OSNR)
BC Water Supply Association
Canadian Water Resources Association
City of Kelowna
City of Vernon
Okanagan College
Okanagan Forest Sector
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board
Okanagan Nation Alliance
Okanagan Nation Alliance
Regional District of North Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Lee Hesketh
Remi Allard
Shawn Reimer (alt)
Ray Crampton
Toby Pike
Brian Guy
Jason Angus
Rob Miles
Leif Burge
Kerry Rouck
David O'Keefe
Natasha Lukey
Zoe Masters
Anna Page (alt)
Evelyn Riechert

STAFF:

OBWB, Executive Director
OBWB, Water Stewardship Director

Anna Warwick Sears
Nelson Jatel

GUESTS:

Regional District of Central Okanagan
UBC Okanagan
Water Cycles
Westcoast CED Consulting

Nancy Fuller
Natasha Neuman
Giselle Green
Grace Phan
Christine Mettler
Karol Hansma

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Nelson Jatel called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and welcomed members (returning and new) and guests.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

**Moved by Don Dobson
Seconded by Bernie Bauer**

***“That the agenda for the May 14, 2015 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”
CARRIED***

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

**Moved by Don Dobson
Seconded by Rob Birtles**

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

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR / VICE CHAIR (18 month term)

The Chair resides over the meetings of the OWSC and provides advice to OBWB staff ensuring that meeting agendas are relevant. The Chair also has a seat on the OBWB which provides for a connection between OWSC and OBWB. A call for nominations was put forth: Rob Birtles was nominated for OWSC Chair. No further nominations were presented at second and third call for nominations; nominations for Chair were closed. Rob Birtles accepted the nomination. Rob Birtles was declared Chair by acclamation. Congratulations!

The Vice Chair resides over any meetings of the OWSC that the Chair is unable to attend. There was a call for nominations for Vice Chair. In abstention, Brian Guy was nominated for Vice Chair and he has accepted the nomination. No further nominations were presented at second and third call for nominations; nominations for Vice Chair were closed. Brian Guy was declared Vice Chair by acclamation. Congratulations!

The meeting was turned over the new Chair, Rob Birtles.

5. Next 18 month Council term: Comments

Don Dobson said a few words as the outgoing Chair of OWSC. He commented on what an honor it has been to be a part of the OWSC for the past 18 months; and, what a great opportunity it has been for him first as the Vice Chair to Bernie Bauer and then as the Chair. The past 18 months

have been interesting. There was a lot of hard work that went into the WSA and a huge amount of effort was taken by the Council members in responding to various issues. Now the task becomes the development of the regulations and already there appears to be great interest by council members to address a number of these issues. A tremendous amount of work is still to be done to continue to ensure that OWSC's voice is heard. The role of Chair has is made easier as a result of the support from of Anna Warwick-Sears, Nelson Jatel, and OBWB staff and all their efforts in working with the Province.

Mr. Dobson also commented on how interesting it has been to work with OBWB members and to see their dedication to the concern about water. He is pleased with the progress that has been made over the past 18 months but there is still a ways to go. Some effort was put into the consideration of a water plan for the basin, which was put on hold with the development of the WSA and the inclusion of water sustainability planning. Much of the work of the Board and staff has been about moving towards the development of a plan for how water is managed and the guidance of that plan and feels that is still the direction needed that needs to be followed.

Chair Birtles addressed the group thanking Mr. Dobson for the mentoring he has provided over the past 18 months allowing him to step up to position of Chair. Over the next 18 months, he is hoping to learn from everyone at the OWSC as this group collectively shares a large body of knowledge about the Okanagan Basin and he is hopeful that OWSC can move these plans forward to a water plan that can be used in the Okanagan; it is about sustainability in the Okanagan.

6. VISION/MISSION Statement – OWSC Review

Nelson Jatel provided an overview of the Vision and Mission Statement of OWSC noting that there is a very comprehensive governance guide (put together by Anna Warwick Sears) available on the OBWB website. This group of individuals is brought together monthly to provide technical advice to OBWB and to connect the Okanagan in the large view and to have a forum to discuss both current and emerging water issues that have significance to those in attendance.

Announcement: A new committee is being formed that is a cohort of past chairs that have a significant body of knowledge amongst them. The first task of the “Past Chair Committee” will be to vet the business plan that will be presented at the next OWSC meeting. He is hopeful that will take place in September.

The next OWSC meeting will be held June 2 (Tuesday) in Penticton. It is a joint meeting of the OBWB and OWSC. This is a great opportunity for the Board to ask questions of Council and for Council to see how the Board operates and some of its priorities. The meeting will begin at 12 with lunch and go to 3 pm after which there are plans in the works for a field trip.

Finally, many organizations have responded to the formal letter that was sent out. However, the Council still requires a letter back from several organizations appointing their delegate and vice delegate to the OWSC.

There are some new organizations joining OWSC this year that have been approved by the Board. One of those is the City of Kelowna Chamber of Commerce which will then report back to Chamber of Commerce throughout the Okanagan.

7. BOARD REPORT—Dr. Anna Warwick Sears

Dr. Warwick Sears acknowledged the passing of John Slater (former MLA for the riding of Boundary-Similkameen). It was Mr. Slater's leadership that enabled the change in the OBWB and the inclusion of the OWSC. He led the water board for a couple of years before the change over and for a number of years after. He moved the organization from one only working on the issue of milfoil to an organization with an expansive mandate.

Some of the highlights include:

- An extension of thanks to all those who sent in suggestions for the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum. This is the third one to be held (October 7-9) and it is unique in that it straddles the US/Canada border on either side of Osoyoos Lake with presentations from both sides. The forum is accessible to all people and they are trying hard to keep the prices down to enable access to all. The pre-forum is being run by the CWRA and it is a workshop specifically on the Columbia River Treaty.
- An update on the water licensing tool. There was a committee meeting this morning on the environmental flow needs studies and water use planning. This is the next step in working towards a water allocation tool. An essential next step is the need to get a better handle on fish flow needs and the relationship to the hydrology in the valley. OBWB is developing a project (\$450,000 of grant applications have been sent out) to look at a series of priority streams in the valley, divide them up into different categories, and assess which one will have what technical process applied to it.

- OBWB has approved Phase 1 of a proposal to do an assessment of what drought plans are in place within the valley. The goal is to do a needs assessment and Phase 2 will be about what can be done to get all communities up to the same level of drought planning (all communities need to have a drought response plan).
- Corinne Jackson has been doing some amazing stuff with communications for OBWB. There was a recent press conference with Bylands Nursery with the launch of the Make Water Work Water Conservation Program. The program has expanded to include valley nurseries.
- A short film documenting the mussel threat to the Okanagan/BC has been released. The link can be found on the Make Water Work website.
- OBWB has issued a position statement on zebra and quagga mussels regarding the relationship between OBWB and the Provincial Government about what is appropriate for local governments to take with zebra and quagga mussels on what's appropriate for the provincial government to take on. She will send it out to anyone who would like to see it so please let her know.
- Letter from Rick Manwaring (Assistant Deputy Ministry, FLNROS) thanking OBWB for their letter regarding the water allocation tool.

8. Committee Reports—Nelson Jatel

The Environmental Flow/WUPs committee met. There were a number of presentations from the Province (specifically FLNRO). FLNRO provided the committee with a document (included in the agenda package) which is one of the initial pieces coming out under the WSA. It is a policy around environmental flows. This will be presented later in the today's meeting. This Council is the second group to see it after the water leadership group received it last week. They are looking for feedback. It is in the process of being tested this year and there is an opportunity for OWSC to be able to provide comment on it and help to make this the best policy possible. The committee also heard presentations from Phil Epp and Rich around some technical issues that are stream specific that relate to fish flow needs in specific streams in the Okanagan. This morning's meeting was a great learning experience providing for two way communication allowing for the creation of a policy document that really meets the needs of the Okanagan

9. INVASIVE MUSSELS

There are a series of videos on invasive mussels (links listed in the agenda) which has been a

serious topic for some time now and the Council was shown the newest video released – <https://vimeo.com/125057151>. This video was shown at the OBWB meeting earlier and they felt it was important for OWSC to be shown it as well. It is important to share the link with respective organizations. It is important that there is an informed group of people in the Okanagan that are pushing the politicians to get the need protection. Brynne Morice is the director of the video and his website is www.protectourfreshwater.ca. It is important to share this with everyone and get it out there onto the larger social networks, including things like the World Wildlife Federation website.

Q: Where are we going with it this summer? There are five major border crossings from Alberta to BC. The province has committing to 3 roving stations. If they were to add two more (make them permanent) then all five border crossings would be covered. This is what OBWB is advocating for. Locally, there is going to be an announcement of a new program that has received funding for more outreach. There will be a lot of activity this summer creating a higher profile. Three things need to be done: 1) the Provincial government needs to step up and get more inspection stations; 2) the Federal government needs to follow through and finish the changes to the Fisheries Act and then train CBSA border guards and ensure they are stopping boats; and 3) the public needs to be super aware and transfer that awareness to others. Collectively, we cover thousands of people in our social networks that we can push the message out to. Lake Winnipeg is the closest Canadian lake to have mussels. There are no mussels in Idaho but Nevada and California have them (Lake Mead & Lake Havasu). There is a lot of traffic between Lake Mead and Lake Havasu and up to BC so this threat is real and people need to be aware and understand the deadly impacts of infestation.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW NEEDS – BC Government Update (Grant Furness)

Jenn Turner from the Ministry of Environment Water Protection and Sustainability Branch has the “pen” on the policy and she is the policy expert. She presented this to a water leaders’ conference earlier in the week. Mr. Furness has a significant level of involvement and how this applies to water allocation applications. Mr. Furness spoke to what the environmental flow needs policy is, what it means, how it works, tying it to the critical environmental flow piece (the movement of the fish protection act into the water sustainability act as there is a key link between the drought piece and the allocation piece), and the next steps that need to be taken locally. The

policy was developed to improve protection of ecological values. It is looking primarily at fish, wildlife and ecosystem values. It only applies to new applications under the WSA. The critical environmental flow thresholds regulate water in times of extreme scarcity. The environmental flow needs approach is a 2-tiered approach: 1) desk top application which is applicable to approximately 50% of the province where a basic assessment is complete and it can move forward; 2) more detailed assessment required. The province has been doing some form of this and using guidelines but this policy will ensure a more consistent approach across the province; as the risk increases, more detailed assessment is required. In the last three years, there has been a regional engagement process with ecosystems’ staff and water allocation’s staff to ensure they are fully cognizant of what is going on. For the last 18 months, there has been a real uptake and recognition of the importance of this policy. This is in the early implementation stages and refinements will be ongoing.

Policy and Principles: The intent is to maintain the key aspects of the hydrograph by understanding how the hydrograph works and ensuring that the key aspects are maintained over time. With this policy they are looking for something that is implementable across the province and that recognizes hydrology, data availability and aquatic orthology. Some objectives of the policy are: 1) to develop a framework for a coarse level of assessment, 2) to recognize that this is a decision support tool, 3) to be an indicator of government involvement; as the risk increases what is the level of involvement that is necessary (this tool will move things into levels of risk to help make the decision as to where to spend more time and conversely where to spend less time), 4) to help with the interconnectedness between this policy, the drought policy and “water planning exercises”. The risk management framework allows for a separate process for each type of risk (low sensitivity, moderate, high) as well as more scrutiny.

The Risk Management Measures are: 1) Risk Level 1 assesses the information to ensure the accuracy and considers downstream users; 2) Risk Level 2 takes Risk Level 1 and adds a reconnaissance level fish and habitat assessment, seasonal license restrictions for low flow periods, and the development of off-stream storage; 3) Risk Level 3 takes Level 1 and 2 and adds a more detailed habitat assessment and looks at such things as a limited term license.

Note: the policy is not about not give out licenses; it is about informing the decision maker who

makes the decision on issuing a license.

Next steps: the applicable FLNRO offices are working through an implementation strategy; developing regional/provincial priorities for further guidance and tool development; developing a piece for exceptions (certain application types or geographic areas that will be exempted); and planning for further external engagement. Regionally, there is a working group that is looking at the policy to see if they can come up with any further information that will be required to help move the implementation along. They are: confirming the membership team; looking at the existing risk assessment framework; compiling baseline data; determining data management storage and retrieval needs; developing a process for existing applications. The working group has an idea of where they would like to go but want to engage this Council as well. This regional group is not a decision making group; they are making recommendations back up to the Regional Manager.

The presentation generated some broad discussion from members in terms of further understanding the implementation of the policy and getting a better understanding of what the policy is trying to achieve and how that will happen.

Mr. Jatel made some concluding remarks after the broad Council discussion. He spoke about how the Environmental Flow Needs Policy Working Group may be a good place to reiterate the need for more environmental stations in the Okanagan. He also spoke to the need of being careful that we do not apply relatively simplistic modelling that could be applied to other parts of the Province, to this Region. And, he spoke of the need for some thought being placed on how this policy relates to local government land use decision making.

11. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

This section of the agenda is meant for Council to be able to bring up discussion items, questions, issues, motions.

Mr. Birtles wondered about an editorial committee for future documents. In 2008, OWSC authored the Okanagan Sustainability Strategy and in 2010 Kelly Garcia reviewed that work. The thought is that this year would be a good time to do another review but wondering if it is time to revisit the original document. The thought on this is that there would be a progress review (how well/how far have we come on different actions; what have been some of the obstacles; and quantifying the progress); and then getting an

update/rewrite of the strategy around 2018. April 1, 2019 is the renewal of the water management program so a revisit would be a way of looking ahead and reinforcing what the OBWB work is and that OBWB is following an appropriate strategy. This generated some conversation about the need or the purpose of a new version. Is there something else that we need now, i.e. indicators (note: the Regional Districts are moving forward on a regional indicators project)?

There is a new governance reality with the WSA and as things become more transparent, there are a number of pieces within the strategy that need to be updated to reflect that the Council is operating under a different rule set. Over the next year, there are a number of things that OWSC can/will respond to, for instance: 1) ground water regulations; 2) EFN; and 3) dam and dike management and safety. The new/updated Water Sustainability Strategy should comment on these.

H. Buchler: Wondering if first off a list should be generated listing what needs to be updated. N. Jatel: Yes, this might not have to be a full process but could maybe be more contained. A sub-committee could look at where we would want to go and look at what things a water strategy V2 could do.

M. Bakelaar: Would a sub-committee have resources available to them. N. Jatel: Yes, staff will be available to enable and support the sub-committee; a consultant would be hired for completing interviews, compiling information and writing.

D. Dobson: Since the original strategy was released, almost 10 years ago, we have a Strategic Plan that the Board has endorsed and new water legislation which are two compelling reasons to revisit the Strategy and bring it up to date and make sure what is in it supports future plans that the Board has endorsed.

A. Warwick Sears: The strategy is more than just a strategy. It is a detailed explanation of what all the different water issues are in the Okanagan, who the big players are, how the pieces of the policy interrelate with each other. It is a guide and a textbook as well as a strategy and a lot of those details are fairly out of date.

N. Jatel: Noted that when the government was actively working on the WSA, he met with Ted White and others, and one of the books on his desk was this Strategy. It is being referred to at some of the highest policy levels and it is Mr. Jatel's sense that it is a bit stale to deal with some of the new emerging issues.

The following motion was put on the table:

“That the OWSC strike an editorial committee for the development of an Okanagan Sustainability Strategy 2.0.”

Don Dobson moved

Hans Buchler seconded

Discussion

There was some more discussion on what may be required as changes to the strategy and it was brought up that the first task of the committee could be providing an interim progress report with recommendations on what revisions are required or should be completed.

The motion was amended to:

“That the OWSC strike an editorial committee for the development of an Okanagan Sustainability Strategy 2.0 with the first task being an interim progress report and recommendations on revisions to the Strategy.

Based on those recommendations the committed will move forward on the development of an Okanagan Sustainability Strategy 2.0”

Don Dobson moved

Hans Buchler seconded

There was a show of hands for those being in favor of the motion. None were opposed.

MOTION CARRIED

Moving forward there is still time for Council discussion on current and emerging water issues.

D. Neilsen had a question regarding the state of water resources this season. N. Jatel indicated that tomorrow (May 13) there is an hour long webinar being hosted by five water experts that are going to answer that question. This webinar will be recorded and the Power Point presentation will be circulated.

R. Clark brought forward some concerns that the RDNO has regarding dam safety and recreation. Their concern is that their dams are being used for hill climbing and mud bogging. A couple of strategies that they have come up with to deter this are: 1) more signage-keep off the dams with tip line number, 2) articles in the paper making sure people understand that off-road vehicles have to be licensed and that there is a tip line to call. They are pushing the concept of dam safety. They are also doing a lot more surveillance. They are working with the Land Act Officers as well to see what they legally are able to do about this. M. Bakelaar indicated they have the same issue on the Aberdeen Plateau. The District of Lake

Country is looking at getting together with Provincial Recreation people to look at a master planning process. This is a big, emerging issue.

12. ROUNDTABLE – MEMBER UPDATES

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Ms. Neilsen (AAFC): staffing research scientist positions at Agriculture & Agri Food Canada. Positions have been posted.
- Mr. Dobson (BCAPEG): watching the snow packs around the area. There is definitely a concern that this summer will see wildfires. It is pretty dry out there and the forecast is for a hot, dry summer.
- Mr. Rogalski (EC): in planning and reporting season. Highlights from the 2015 budget including a little bit of new money going to Pacific Salmon Foundation-Salish Sea Marine Survival Program, and a continuation of environmental programs with \$75 million over 5 years, starting this year, supporting implementation of the species at risk act, and \$34 million over 5 years, starting this year, to support meteorological and navigational warning services with a focus on the Arctic.
- Mr. Bauer (UBCO): addressed a class of graduate students (across all different faculties—management, engineering, critical studies, arts, sciences) doing experiential learning, project based activities that are looking helping Peachland solve their long term water sustainability problems over the next two weeks. It will be interested to see what they come up with. He gave a quick summary on the Okanagan water supply demand project and it has renewed his excitement about this project. This was a monumental project and in thinking about the Water Sustainability Strategy 2.0, we should also be thinking about how we utilize the supply/demand project and some of the things that are spinning off of it. He acknowledged the importance of the joint OBWB/OWSC meeting in June. It is important for all Council members to attend. This meeting provides an opportunity to show OBWB who we are and what we do.
- Ms. Fuller (guest): wanting to stay informed of water issues and know what is going on in the valley.
- Mr. Ough (City of Kelowna): has been working on exploring water servicing solutions.
- Ms. McDonald (BDFGA): growers looking at expanding into northern Okanagan areas and are investigating areas of expansion for cherry growers to facilitate cherry production under current and projected climate conditions while optimizing water use efficiency and soil health.
- Mr. Furness (FLNRO): habitat conservation on

Penticton Creek. They are taking the concrete out, rechannelizing it, and putting river rock along the bottom. There is an 800 m stretch picked for the first phase of the project. In the South Okanagan WMA (between Oliver and Osoyoos) there is a riparian cottonwood area that FLNRO are doing some restoration work on. They have dug some channels and opened some valves and letting the water go into the area to see if the water holds. They will look to flood the whole pasture area on a seasonal basis. They have funding for ½ FTE to continue on with Riparian Areas Regulation. They are looking at bringing it up to the same level of compliance as Vancouver Island which has set the standard. One of the big undertakings they are doing this year are changes to the Large Lakes Protocol and Water Act Officer Terms and Conditions in conjunction with the changes to the Federal Fisheries Act. They are hoping to present to the Council in September on the changes.

- Ms. Mettler (guest): working on a project to collaborate with Kelowna Museum to coordinate an exhibition and public lecture series on the history of water in the Okanagan Valley. It will be a community-based multimedia exhibition that will piece together the story of water. They are targeting next March for opening to coincide with World Water Day.
- Ms. Green (BCGWA): BC Water and Waste Assn has a conference in Kelowna May 20-22 on the Okanagan Hydrometric database.
- C. Luttmmer (OCCP): their focus right now is to realize the vision and goals outlined in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Okanagan region. Part of their outreach to citizens is an exhibit at the Allan Brooks Nature Centre till September. One of their Partners, OKSSS, has expanded into the North and Central Okanagan. They have signed on seven landowners so far.
- Ms. Neumann (guest): recently attended a conference in Oregon called Flow 2015 hosted by the Instream Flow Council. There was a collection of environmental flow experts from eight countries and there were some Tribal communities there as well. The theme she got from the three days was that there is no single way to do these things, flexibility is the best approach and there are lots of ways to “skin the cat” and get water for ecosystem function/fish.
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): The Peachland club is working with the Province and Fisheries society to install a wheelchair accessible dock on Shannon Lake. The Goldfish program is currently running at Hull Road Pond and Mission Creek park. A Wetlandkeepers course was held May 1-3 in Kelowna and it was successful. They are also hosting they Wetlands Education course (a 7-day environmental stewardship workshop) in Kelowna and Vernon September 28 – October 4.
- Mr. Edwards (DFO): Letters of approval are going out for the recreational fisheries conservation partnerships program. There were 61 projects in BC that got approved for about \$4.8 million. The ones that did get approval now have to develop detailed workplans. They have heard in the Federal Budget that this program is to be extended another three years. They are working with the Okanagan River Restoration Initiative putting in a third sockeye spawning platform. This is on a tight schedule for turn around. ONA is looking at putting in a fish fence for capturing fish for the hatchery. In the North Okanagan, they are looking at doing some work on Cook Creek near Kingfisher Interpretive Centre. They are also working with the BC Cattlemen and the Environmental Farm Plan to
- Mr. Peterson (BCMA): the 2nd round of funding for the BC Work project is going well and they expect they should have funding to complete the project. Interviews have been completed for a BC Provincial Soils specialist and they are hoping to hear back from the person the position has been offered to. He is working on the soil moisture study in the Kamloops area again and have added in a few new farms. This study provides good data on farming. Carl Withler is the new tree fruit specialist. There are some regional drought teams coming together and looking at doing some modification of the regional drought plan.
- Ms. Bakelaar (RDCO): the main project they are working on is a stream restoration monitoring program. Giselle will be doing the work and as part of the work they are looking at contacting experts (folks around this table) over the summer and look at the issue of how do you monitor restoration activities. RDNO has put together a monitoring program for the Regional Growth Strategy. They have tested it and are looking at updating it based on that testing and they are looking at adding indicators or having the ability to access the monitoring publically online. They have applied for funding to do this work. They are looking at working with the Central and South Okanagan to have consistent monitoring indicators up and down the valley.
- Ms. Clark (RDNO): The reservoirs are full and spilt on April 22. The normal range for this is usually May 15 to mid June. There is lots of

supply at this time but are using about 90 mega litres/day on the Duteau source (the normal for this is 45-50). They don't usually see this type of flow until the end of June. There are really dry soils in the valley bottoms. They are looking at their drought management plan and the criteria. Their critical time is June rains and if we don't get June rains they will be in trouble. The Regional Agricultural Plan is out for community input and there is a survey online. Their Water Quality Monitoring Station on Coldstream Creek went live in March. They started their workshops in January: Irrigation Management and Environmental Farm Plan.

- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): UBCO is organizing a Forestry and Water conference from July 7-9 and they are just in the process of finalizing the agenda. There is a webinar on the status of water supply in the Okanagan on May 13th.
- Ms. Warwick Sears (OBWB): involved in organizing the Canadian Water Summit in June. It is an interesting conference as it is National and it also has a lot of industry involved. The event as a whole is being sponsored by the country of Holland.
- Mr. Birtles (IHA): Embarking on the Algal program this year for monitoring algae on beaches and in drinking water. They are waiting for the province to finalize their draft document. They have had complaints already on Okanagan Lake and down in Summerland.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be a joint meeting with the Okanagan Basin Water Board on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 from 12:00 to 3:00 with location to be determined.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director

- Mr. Wilson (Tolko): this time of year is usually a scary time of the year with road washouts, rain on snow events, but these events are not occurring this year. Big issue in forestry right now is birds and wildlife and a lot of time being spent on species at risk.
- Mr. Meredith (CWRA): the 68th National Conference is being held June 2-4th in Winnipeg. May 21st there is workshop and AGM – Wacky Weather and Hard Hydrology. May 9th there was a Vancouver Drinking water treatment plant event. It was well attended. There is a Fish water management webinar by Dr. Kim Hyatt. The date is too be announced.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

Moved by Don Dobson

“That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of May 14, 2015 be adjourned.”

CARRIED