

# OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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

## MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, May 12, 2016, AT OKANAGAN REGIONAL LIBRARY, 1430 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C.

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### 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 Water Supply Association  
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8  
Canadian Water Resources Association  
City of Kelowna  
Environment and Climate Change Canada – West and North  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Interior Health Authority  
Interior Health Authority  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (OSNR)  
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program  
Okanagan Nation Alliance  
Regional District of North Okanagan  
UBC Okanagan

Denise Neilsen  
Don Dobson  
Hans Buchler  
Denise MacDonald  
Marta Green  
Toby Pike  
Doug Flintoft/Lorne Davies  
Brian Guy  
Jason Angus (alt)  
Ian Rogalski (alt)  
Doug Edwards  
Rob Birtles (Chair)  
Judi Ekkert (alt)  
Andrew Petersen  
Ray Riley (alt)  
Tanis Gieselman  
Natasha Lukey  
Renee Clark  
Bernie Bauer

#### Regrets

BC Cattlemen's Association  
City of Penticton  
City of Vernon  
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (Resource Mgmt)  
Okanagan College  
Okanagan Forest Sector  
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board  
Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Lee Hesketh/Linda Allison  
Andrew Martin  
Ed Stranks/Rob Miles  
Tom Dyas/Jeff Robinson  
Grant Furness  
Allison MacMillan  
Murray Wilson  
David O'Keefe  
Margaret Bakelaar  
Evelyn Riechert/Zoe Kirk

### STAFF

OBWB, Executive Director  
OBWB, Water Stewardship Director  
OBWB, Operations and Grants Manager  
OBWB, Communications Director

Anna Warwick Sears  
Nelson Jatel  
James Littlely  
Corinne Jackson

### GUESTS

AF Consulting  
BC Cherry Association  
BCFGA  
Freshwater Alliance  
Irrigation Industry Association of BC  
Irrigation Industry Association of BC  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
Urban Systems  
Westcoast CED Consulting

Nancy Fuller  
Natasha Neuman  
Johanna Faccini  
Christine Denby  
Kevin Day  
Christine Mettler  
Bruce Naka  
Ted van der Gulik  
Craig Nichol  
John Janmaat  
Nargiz Rahineova  
Rehan Sadiq  
Suzan Lapp  
Karol Hansma

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Rob Birtles called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA**

**Moved by Bernie Bauer  
Seconded by Toby Pike**

***“That the agenda for the May 12, 2016 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”  
CARRIED***

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Toby Pike  
Seconded by Andrew Petersen  
Discussion**

It was noted that Industry was missing from IIABC on page 1; berm was spelled incorrectly (burm) on page 4 (round table update by Mr. Dobson); and the presentations by BCFGAs are to municipalities and regional districts and are not small presentations (round table update by Ms. MacDonald, page 4). Each year the BCFGAs provide an industry update. These changes have been reflected in the April 14, 2016 minutes.

**Moved by Doug Edwards  
Seconded by Toby Pike**

***“That the amended minutes from the April 14, 2016 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved with the above noted changes.”  
CARRIED***

**4. BOARD REPORT—Ms. Warwick Sears**

The board received a report on Phase 2 of the Okanagan Wetland Project as well as an update on the Mission Creek Restoration project. The Board heard a presentation from an engineering group at UBC Okanagan on an asset management and water quality. The annual joint Water Board-Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting is set for June 7.

**5. MISSION CREEK GROUNDWATER-SURFACEWATER PROJECT (Don Dobson & Craig Nichol)**

This project is a good example of how the Board and the Stewardship Council work together. The project arose out of a Council meeting and a discussion around the need to do something

about groundwater/surface water interactions on Mission Creek. It became a high priority and it was moved forward on very quickly. The project started off as a result of work being done by Craig Nichol and Nicole Pyett at UBCO on the movement of water from Kelowna area aquifers to Okanagan Lake. There was a lot of interest in the findings along with work being done by Toby Pike in the SEKID systems. Remi Allard began looking at the work that needed to be done to understand how additional withdrawals from the aquifer will affect things. The intent of the project is to look at the interaction between surface water and groundwater along Mission Creek and Kelowna. There was a lot of interest in the losses and increases of flow in Mission Creek and the impacts on the unconfined aquifer as well as how pumping from large production groundwater wells might be effecting flows in Mission Creek. The project is about gathering and archiving the data in a formal database to allow others to do further work and assist in water use planning.

The following has been done to date: training has been provided to staff that will be collecting and downloading the stream flow data and who will also be involved in environmental flow needs data collection; installation of surface water monitoring stations; installation of groundwater monitoring stations; formal database system has been set up (Aquarius) and Natasha Neuman is assisting with entering the data into the system; one set of surface water flow measurements pre-freshet have been collected.

They are working at getting a picture of what is happening – how much is Mission Creek losing? Gaining back? What happens in freshet? Summer? Information from this project can also be used to look at environmental flow needs, critical flows for habitat, fish habitat/spawning, flood modeling, sediment transport and stream evolution, chemical sampling. The database will enable others to use the information for different studies. One of the outstanding issues for the project is getting an understanding of where the unconfined aquifers are.

There is a further opportunity to collect data and record information on springs, diversions for irrigation, and streams flowing into the creek and provide employment to students to help collect this information.

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES (Nelson Jatel)**

The Wetlands committee met this morning. Don Gatton has spent time reviewing Phase 1 and Phase 2 in developing the next document which will be the Wetlands Strategy. A draft table of contents has been circulated for discussion and review. The WSA committee also met. They have compiled documentation around what was recommended/asked for in documents sent to the Government since 2010 regarding the WSA. The committee will be compiling a memo for OWSC to review and then send to the Board. There will not be any workshops in June.

## **7. ROUNDTABLE – MEMBER UPDATES**

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): working on a number of project management items. He has been working closely with Suzan Lapp on the BC Water Use Reporting Centre tool. He has been working with Natasha Neumann on Aquarius and they have recently downloaded a second component of the software-Aquarius Web Portal which will allow for better data management for things like the MCRI project, EFN project, and water use data. The hope is that it will allow for the better sharing of information that has multiple uses by different groups. Phase 2 of the Wetlands Strategy is wrapping up and they have co-authors in place for Phase 3: Wetland Strategy (Don Gatton and Neil Fletcher).
- Ms. Warwick Sears (OBWB): she is the Chair of the Real Estate Foundation of BC and they are looking for nominations for the Land Awards of BC which celebrate initiatives that demonstrate leadership, innovation and collaboration in sustainable land use in BC. Nominations close on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The three finalists will have a video made of their project and the winner will be unveiled at their Gala in October.
- Mr. Guy (CWRA): the CWRA's annual conference is May 25-27 in Montreal. They have not received a letter of response for their letter to the Ministry regarding the CRT.
- Mr. Janmaat (UBCO): they have students starting work on some projects. There is some cost/benefit work on a herb environmental farm plan in the North Okanagan and understanding the impacts on land owners and impacts to greater society. He has two students working on a small water systems project and the

relationship between prices properties sell for and the quality of water.

- Ms. Clark (RDNO): their spill is starting to decrease and they are going into storage early. They are looking at updating their drought management plan from 2010. Kal Lake will be included in the plan this time. They have hired two summer students and they will have one out at the boat launches this summer informing boaters about zebra and quagga mussels. She met with Rita Winkler and Clay Allison who have just finished an economic study on the value of timber and the value of water in the Valley.
- Mr. Angus (City of Kelowna): they are wrapping up a water intake risk assessment project and starting up a project on Mill Creek as well as working on 2017 budgeting.
- Mr. Rogalski (ECCC): consultation on the 2016-19 Federal Strategy is underway. Input for this can be provided online. The Pan Canadian framework on clean growth and climate change action is underway. It is the government's approach to what they are going to try and do about climate change. There are a number of working groups that have been established.
- Mr. Petersen (MAG): with freshet down and disappearing snowpack, drought impacts are becoming front and centre of discussion.
- Ms. Green (BCGWA): they are half way through the hosting of four workshops on WSA. There will be two more with one in Vancouver and one in Prince George.
- Ms. Lapp (guest): in the process of completing surveys up and down the valley and extends thanks to all those purveyors that have participated and taken the time to sit with her.
- Mr. Dobson (APEGBC): had the opportunity to see the MCRI working when flows came up in late April and again last night.
- Ms. Mettler (guest): collecting oral histories from people and their knowledge of water in the valley for the Social Life of Water.
- Ms. Ekkert (IH): moving forward on an opportunity for small water systems and emergency response planning.
- Ms. Fuller (guest): pass
- Ms. Neumann (guest): pass
- Mr. Bauer (UBCO): A couple of students graduated this year. One was working on Lower Vernon Creek between Kalamalka Lake and Lake Okanagan to look at the potential for Sockeye salmon spawning habitat. If interested

in the thesis, email Bernie for a copy. He is working on the environmental farm plan collaboratively with John Janmaat. He has a master's student looking at the biophysical aspects of best management practices. There is a new project with Debbie Roberts (engineering), FLNRO & Rob Dinwoodie looking at the impacts of livestock and ATV traffic across streams below Postill Lake.

- Mr. Pike (BCWSA): SEKID has had its earliest fill in the reservoir this year. Demand is also up for this time of year. Anticipating that it will be an interesting year for water demand management. The Kelowna drought plan was updated this spring. BCWSA did a strategic planning session with Kelly Garcia. MoE distributed draft pollution abatement orders in the Hullcar aquifer calling for a minimization of agricultural waste into the environment.
  - Ms. Lukey (ONA): ONA is working with OIB on an invasive species fishery in the south Okanagan. The sockeye fry release is May 18<sup>th</sup> in Penticton. Okanagan Sockeye will be released into Okanagan Lake. ONA is working on a MoU with BCWF 8 and others (OSCI) on salmon recovery and developing a rainbow trout action plan. The Westbank ONA office is opening a food hub (retail/local producers): 'For Okanagan by Okanagan'. ONA continues to work with OBWB on EFN initiative. They have been pit tagging Sockeye smolts (10,000). The ONA Spirit of Syilx Unity Run is taking place from May 31 – June 3. The theme of the run is 'Violence and Suicide in FN communities'. May 16<sup>th</sup> is the Early Years Gathering.
  - Ms. Gieselman (OCCP): they have lots of initiatives on the go. They are collaborating with OBWB and Regional and Local government on a boating impact assessment for Kalamalka and Wood Lakes. They are working with OBWB to update and establish some education resource kits. They have a local farmer in the North Okanagan that is interested in constructing a wetland on their property. They have been approached to help with a number of water quality issues in the North Okanagan. Outside of the Okanagan, they are working on the Cherry Creek monitoring project.
  - Mr. Riley (FLNRO): they have updated the provincial drought implementation plan and there is a session on June 1<sup>st</sup> where the updates will be presented and feedback garnered.
- FLNRO is making a presentation at the Cattlemen's Association AGM at the end of May on WSA and ground water licensing. Shawn Reimer indicated that Okanagan Lake is about 10 cm below full pool and close to peak. They figure Okanagan Lake is about three weeks ahead of where it was at this time last year.
- Ms. MacDonald (BCFGA): introduced Kevin Day who farms in Kelowna and is the manager of the irrigation intake on Mission Creek for Benvoulin/KLO areas. He is interested in the work the Board/Council is doing and looks forward to hearing more.
  - Mr. van der Gulik (IIABC): there is conference being held in Kelowna in November in partnership with OBWB and the Real Estate Foundation. The theme is Flow vs Grow. The BC Agriculture Water License Calculator is completed, online and running. They were under budget on the project and are looking at expanding the project.
  - Mr. Flintoft (BCWF): involved in wetland issues. Their provincial AGM was in April. Neil Fletcher, Wetland Coordinator, was given an award. He was named Canadian Outdoor Person of the Year. BCWF website has a good write up.
  - Mr. Davies (BCWF): pass
  - Mr. Edwards (DFO): they have a few programs that have been announced that applied for funding. They had a big announcement on May 11. The DFO Minister and Minister of Science announced \$197 million program over the next few years. Funding will go to DFO to hire 130 new staff across the country. He is not sure how it will impact the Okanagan yet. He was a meeting recently (Wilsey Dam Group) where there was some discussion regarding the EFN study. It is getting positive feedback. They are reviewing plans for a project in the Similkameen called the 100 Acre Wood this summer. They are also working with ONA looking at putting in a permanent fish fence structure for trapping fish for counting and taking brood stock for the hatchery.
  - Mr. Littley (OBWB): this winter they did about 30% more milfoil treatment, mostly around Kelowna in the shallow water areas. The Province issued a press release around zebra and quagga mussels. They started with the 8 inspection stations on April 1 and as of May 3 they had inspected 1225 boats, identified 64 high risk (came directly from contaminated lakes), 12

decontamination orders issued, 7 30 day quarantines were issued, and one boat was impounded and driver charged with failing to stop. There are still some definite limitations to the system. A number of the stations are only open 8 hours. The conservation office would like to keep them open longer. It is mandatory to pull over and have your boat inspected but unsure if it is mandatory, when the station is closed, to report. Need to stay on top of the pressure on the government to ramp up the inspections citing what has already happened in the first month. A great deal of discussion ensued regarding increasing the capacity of the inspection stations and requiring mandatory inspections of all boats entering into BC. The Government needs to be serious about this threat as it is still way too easy to get around the stations. Bernie Bauer put forward the following motion: ***“that given the new information gathered throughout the April inspection program, the Council requests that the Board write a letter to the province urging increased hours of operation at inspection stations, and that any boat entering the province be legally required to report to an inspection station during its hours of operation.”*** Toby Pike seconded the motion. There was not further discussion and with a show of hands, OWSC members voted unanimously to request the Board send such a letter to the Government.

- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): Anna presented an update on behalf of Ms. Jackson. Interviews are in progress for summer help to hire someone to do outreach. They held a news conference with the Mayors from up and down the valley to talk about water conservation and make pledges to MWW. There is a contest between communities. They are ramping up the DMM campaign.
- Mr. Birtles (IH): the provincial health officer is working on new indicators.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

**8. MEDIUM SIZE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE VULNERABILITY, OPTIMIZATION, RISK AND OKANAGAN CASE STUDIES (Rehan Sadiq)**

The Council heard from Dr. Rehan Sadiq. Dr. Sadiq is with the Faculty of Applied Science School of Engineering at UBCO. His research expertise is in water supply systems. His original focus was on large water supply systems but when he moved to the Okanagan, 8 years ago, he discovered we didn't have large municipalities and he started researching small and medium-sized municipalities. Dr. Sadiq's presented on an asset management tool designed to help small to medium-sized communities determine, and address, the challenges posed by aging drinking water infrastructure. He talked about the concept of continuous performance improvement and the need to develop decision support tools which can integrate water quality management practices with asset management principles for continuous performance improvement of water supply service and infrastructure in small to medium-sized water utilities.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be a joint OBWB/OWSC meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 2016 from 10:00 to 3:30 at a location to be announced.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Moved by Doug Edwards**

***“That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of May 12, 2016 be adjourned.”***

**CARRIED**

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Chair

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Executive Director