

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, October 13, 2016, AT OKANAGAN REGIONAL LIBRARY, 1430 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch
BC Cattlemen's Association
BC Ground Water Association
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
Canadian Water Resources Association
City of Kelowna
Environment and Climate Change Canada – West and North
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (Resource Mgmt)
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Regional District of North Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
UBC Okanagan

Denise Neilsen
Lee Hesketh
Marta Green
Lorne Davies (alt)
Doug Flintoft
Brian Guy
Jason Angus (alt)
Ian Rogalski (alt)
Doug Edwards
Andrew Petersen
Grant Furness
Scott Boswell
Jennifer Miles (alt)
Zoe Kirk
Bernie Bauer

Regrets

Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.
BC Agriculture Council
BC Fruit Growers Association
BC Water Supply Association
City of Penticton
City of Vernon
Interior Health Authority
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (OSNR)
Okanagan College
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board
Okanagan Forest Sector
Okanagan Nation Alliance
Regional District of Central Okanagan

Don Dobson
Hans Buchler
Denise MacDonald/Glen Lucas
Toby Pike/Patti Meger
Andrew Martin
Ed Stranks/Rob Miles
Rob Birtles (Chair)/Judi Ekkert
Caroline Grover/Tom Dyas
Robert Warner/Ray Crampton
Allison MacMillan/Leif Burge
David O'Keefe
Murray Wilson
Natasha Lukey
Margaret Bakelaar

STAFF

OBWB, Executive Director
OBWB, Water Stewardship Director
OBWB, Operations and Grants Manager
OBWB, Communications Director
OBWB, Policy & Planning Specialist

Anna Warwick Sears
Nelson Jatel
James Littley
Corinne Jackson
Kellie Garcia

GUESTS

Irrigation Industry Association of BC
RDOS/Friends of Summerland Ornamental Gardens
UBC-O
UBC-O
UBC-O
Water Cycles
Westcoast CED Consulting

Bruce Naka
Eva Antonijevic
John Janmaat
Craig Nichol
Nargiz Rahimova
Christine Mettler
Karol Hansma

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Brian Guy called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. and welcomed members and guests. He extended a thank you to the Council members for their hard work, dedication and commitment during this term. OWSC has accomplished a lot over the past 18 months and are well positioned to move ahead starting with the meeting in November. Mr. Guy also extended his thanks to Rob Birtles for his leadership over this last term.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

There was an adjustment made to the timing of the RAPP Application presentation. It was moved to after the coffee break; around 3pm.

**Moved by Zoe Kirk with adjustment
Seconded by Bernie Bauer**

“That the agenda for the October 13, 2016 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as adjusted.”

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Zoe Kirk noted that the name of the area where they are conducting water main upgrades is Olalla not Walla, page 4. This has been amended in the September 8, 2016 minutes.

**Moved by Bernie Bauer
Seconded by Doug Edwards**

“That the amended minutes from the September 8, 2016 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.” CARRIED

4. BOARD REPORT—Dr. Warwick Sears

The Board meeting was held on October 4, 2016 at the RDNO offices in Coldstream. They had a presentation from the Society for the Protection of Kalamalka Lake about a pollution source assessment on Coldstream Creek. A preliminary report has been completed and is due out by the end of 2016. It provides RDNO and Coldstream with good information on how to deal with those specific problems. Dr. Sears encourages RDOS to submit an application for a WCQCI grant to look at the water quality issue at Vaseux Lake. Dr. Sears spoke at the September UBCM conference on drought and climate change. She also attended the Watershed 2016 Conference in Vancouver. Mr. Jatel presented on his EFN work. Mr. Littley reported Vaseux Lake and the milfoil. There is a need to balance the solution of the Lakeshore residents and the potential needs of the wildlife. This is an ongoing issue that OBWB will continue to work with RDOS on. He also presented a memo

about zebra and quagga mussels and the fact that PNWER is talking about stockpiling potash to kill the mussels if they get into our lakes. This was a failure when used in Lake Winnipeg. The Board is putting together letters for PNWER and the BC Government indicating they are not keen on having large scale potash added to our lakes. Ms. Jackson reported on the MWW which has been wrapped up and this year’s winners were announced. Ms. Garcia continues with her work on the Okanagan Drought Response Study as well as working with Jennifer Miles on how water meter data is processed in local water utilities.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Mr. Guy asked Mr. Littley to talk in a little more detail about this to the OWSC group. The stockpiling of potash is resulting from a call by Provincial Government staff to pre-approve the stockpile of chemicals (potash) for the rapid response plan. Mr. Littley has brought this to the attention of the Board as it is a controversial item and he is now drafting a letter to the Province and one to PNWER. The mussel issue is huge for BC and more effort needs to be made to keep them out and OBWB is pushing for that. Ms. Kirk was asked to speak on her involvement and she noted that UBCM was a platform for speaking more about the issue. RDOS had a short meeting with the Minister and their position was that they do not want to see any watercraft coming into BC. She provided some further information on some on the ground work done by OASISS (Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society) through funding from OBWB. They conduct surveys at the lakes, and are asking specific questions. In particular, it was noted that 35% of those interviewed had not seen or been stopped by an inspection team. These reports are good as they provide information to use to go after the province for more money.

Ms. Jackson noted that OBWB also hires someone in the summer to help with outreach for the various programs like DMM. In September, OBWB was provided with a final report which showed that their outreach person attended 22 community events and spoke with about 1266 people. The report indicated that most people following the media stories have heard the DMM message which shows that people are aware of the issue and speaks to the impact of the outreach program. People talked about being concerned about the border crossings and that they are not doing enough to check boats. They also mentioned that they are comfortable talking with friends and neighbours about the importance of washing their boats and other watercraft. This goes along with the expansion of the DMM campaign which

encourages people to “Have the Talk” to “prevent aquatically transmitted species”.

Mr. Littley spoke about the Province’s inspection station data updated on September 27. They inspected just over 24,100 watercraft. 17 were confirmed to have adult invasive mussels (14 coming from Ontario, 1 from Manitoba, 1 from Michigan and 1 from Nevada); 673 were coming from high risk Provinces or States; 90 decontamination orders were issued; 68 had quarantine periods; 46 tickets and 36 warning tickets were issues for failing to stop at inspection stations. Q: is the boating industry attacking this in any way, i.e. in terms of hull designs, etc.? A: yes, they have been engaged and are looking at filters to prevent mussels from getting into the systems and the issue is being raised at boat shows.

Mr. Guy put it to the group that the next meeting will involve planning for priorities for the next term. He would like the group to think about what more the Council can do to help James to keep the pressure on, increase the funding, and increase the effectiveness of the monitoring and inspections.

A question was asked about the relationship between the Board and Council and what it is like right now. Mr. Guy commented that at the next Council meeting the planning process for the next term will start. His plan is to review a Figure that was in the current Council term’s plan which shows the interrelationships between the Council, Board and staff and go over those relationships with the new Council at the next meeting. The Board has a 5-year Strategic Plan that is still ongoing and involves a list of priorities that the Board is working towards achieving. The attitude among the Board members is very positive and everyone came away from the June joint meeting very satisfied with the progress. Ms. Sears spoke about understanding the different ways that the Council helps Board and staff. Information comes to the Board’s attention and OWSC and OBWB staff takes the information and works with it providing feedback and advice to OBWB. With the higher priority issues, the fact that the Council is meeting once a month and reviewing those issues gives OBWB and the energy to understand what they need to be the different Board projects. A comment was made that there is a good working relationship between the Board, Council and Staff and that relationship is worth protecting and fostering. The comment was also made that the Strategic Plan should be circulated before the next meeting for everyone to review. Ms. Sears also commented that anyone that doesn’t have a copy of the Sustainable Water Strategy should get one from Nelson and review it as it has been the base

document for the Council over the last 10 years and the Board has been having conversations about updating it. Mr. Jatel noted that since OBWB made changes to its composition (to include the Chair of OWSC, WSA and First Nations) he feels that the conversation at the Board has been significantly improved.

5. **ROUNDTABLE – MEMBER UPDATES**

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): two weeks ago he was in Vancouver presenting to the Living Water Strategy Group on the EFN work being done in the Okanagan. He was in Victoria last week reporting on the BC Water Use Reporting Centre. Version 2.0 will be released soon to a small pilot group with the focus being on some key attributes of the software as well as making it as user friendly as possible.
- Ms. Warwick Sears (OBWB): her focus has been on keeping everything moving forward. She has been working on budgeting and supporting staff with their individual projects. She also works with the Real Estate Foundation and is keen on helping them to work together and move towards a common vision.
- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): MWW and DMM projects have been wrapped up. The Mayor of Peachland held their own MWW event and they won the MWW Championship for collecting the most pledges to MWW. A couple from Osoyoos won the \$6000 WaterWise grand prize for an upgrade to their property. In mid August, the DMM expanded to include “Have the Talk” encouraging people to talk about the need to protect our waters. The reason for the expansion was in response, in part, to OBWB wanting to see the message get beyond the Okanagan. She has also been providing communication support for the RAPP App, the Eco Centre, OCCP, Flow & Grow, Waterlution contest, and various presentations throughout the summer.
- Mr. Furness (FLNRO): Ecosystems group continue to move forward on wetlands projects. They have done some inventories looking for some rare amphibians. They are working to conserve some wetlands in the Osoyoos West Bench area being impacted by off road vehicle use. They are working on the South Okanagan Wildlife Management area to improve some range practices in the WMA in terms getting cows out of the wetland and riparian areas on Crown land.
- Ms. Green (BCGWA): hosting two more WS information sessions: Oct 21/22 in Parksville and Oct 28/29 in Prince George. Their fall regional meeting is being held Oct 14 in Vernon.

- Jennifer Miles (RDNO): working on their drought management plan update. They are looking at starting construction on the extension of the intake in Kal Lake. They had a good field tour with the Duteau Creek Watershed Technical Advisory Committee. She has been working with Kellie Garcia on a data management survey.
- Mr. Petersen (MAG): his main focus has been on WSA and helping the Province with regulations and policies like the livestock regulation and dugout policies. His group won the Premiers Award for the Interior Region.
- Mr. Janmaat (UBCO): last year he applied for some SSHRC funding, but did not receive it, for a project looking at property values and drinking water quality. He is working on revising the application and resubmitted it today.
- Mr. Nichol (UBCO): working on a number of different projects. Working with Ms. Neilsen on an Irrigation and Green House Gas Emissions project. Working with Mr. Jatel on Mission Creek.
- Ms. Neilsen (AAFC): noted that it has been a very different year than last year has been the perfect growing season for apples. In particular, it is interesting to note the rapid changes in weather which is something she anticipates that we will continue to see. She was part of an announcement of the Climate Change Action Group Funding Initiative regarding the Washington State University's Decision Aid System being adapted for Okanagan tree fruit growers to help improve orchard management. They started using drones this fall.
- Ms. Mettler (guest): the Social Life of Water museum exhibit opened at the Heritage Museum. They are hoping to make it a travelling exhibit. The Canadian Freshwater Alliance is hosting a workshop Nov 10.
- Ms. Antonijevic (guest): RDOS was successful in receiving a RBC grant to reach out and educate property owners in how to protect the water and landscape. They are conducting a series of workshops in the communities. The Friends of Summerland Environmental Gardens received funding from OBWB last year for water gardens allowing people to see a water garden.
- Ms. Kirk (RDOS): working on together a newsletter for West Bench showing what has been happening over the 18 months of water meter usage; however, it is very difficult to get average daily use to provide the consumer. They have been working with BC Climate Adaptation on getting drought communication out to agriculture. They had Amy Nixon meet with RDOS regarding ephemeral wetlands. RDOS has extensive mapping from their mosquito control program and they are hoping she can use that information by signing a legal agreement Amy's group now have access to the mapping. Ms. Kirk believes that RDCO and RDNO both have mosquito control programs and therefore some sort of mapping that they could share. The first phase of their drought planning (a gap analysis) has been awarded. They are redoing their regional water use regulations and conservation bylaw. RFPs are going out for wetlands.
- Mr. Naka (IIABC): Nov 28 starts their 37th Annual Convention and Tradeshow. It is being held in Kelowna at the Coast Capri Hotel and will have a bit of an Okanagan flavor. The City of Kelowna will be going over their by-laws. They were the first to initiate by-laws on irrigation in regards to landscape. The High Efficiency Irrigation Standard tool is up and running. They have a lot of people interested in learning how to use it. They are in the process of developing CEUs and will be voting at the meeting about incorporating them. They are finding out that it is pretty expensive process.
- Mr. Bauer (UBCO): thinking that it would be useful to capture the vignettes that have been documented here on why metering is important and even put them up on the OBWB website somewhere as there still seems to be resistance to the idea of metering and these show the benefits. The concept being "you can't manage what you don't measure". Ms. Kirk has been getting sign-off from the establishments/owners to use their testimonials. Ms. Sears noted that the Sustainable Water Strategy is going to be republished in the future and they will be looking for those types of testimonials to include. UBC-O has a new Masters of Data Science program and from an academic perspective this may be a good source for the water metering data. Raymond Lawrence is the contact on campus and maybe there are some students that can be of help. Mr. Bauer also spoke about the Wilsey Dam Fish Passage committee. There is a 7 step process that BC Hydro has laid out to achieve fish passage at the dam site to the upper areas of the Shuswap River.
- Mr. Angus (City of Kelowna): they have the go ahead to start with the replacement of water meters. They are moving ahead with grant applications for water and sewer.
- Ms. Garcia (OBWB): working on 5 projects at the moment. First, the Mainstem Lakes Drought Triggers project is working with water suppliers to build common drought triggers through utilities that draw from mainstem lakes and Okanagan River. Second, the Agriculture Drought Outreach project focus is on developing outreach methods and materials. This is a Climate Action Fund Initiative.
- Mr. Hesketh (BCCA): glad to hear that the

Province is working through several processes like the Livestock Watering and the Waste Management Act. Issues with the Water Act Licensing need to be solved so they can solve some of the waste management issues. He has been working with 7 dairy farms in the Deep Creek area to address issues related to that section of the creek. In regards to Wilsey Dam, it is great to witness the movement that is now happening. Mr. Hesketh holds biodiversity tours at his ranch and is hosting this year's on Nov 25 from 10 am to 3 pm with a focus on Wilsey Dam. The general public is invited to tour the dam and view the facilities.

- Ms. Boswell (OCCP): they have been involved in foreshore inventory mapping of Okanagan Lake. They had about 20 volunteers help out. An analysis is being done and a comparison to 2009 work is being done as well as comparisons to work done on similar projects. They are working in cooperation with the Planning Institute of BC and will be hosting a workshop on Nov 4 called Planning for the Environment: How Can Planning Enhance Protection with guest speaker Deborah Curran
- Mr. Rogalski (ECCC): the 2016-2019 Federal Sustainable Development Strategy has been released. Agriculture and Agri Food Canada are consulting on the next generation of the Agricultural Policy Framework. BC has announced a call for proposals on the Water and Waste Water Infrastructure Fund (\$225 million federally and \$148 provincially). Ms. Sears indicated that this is relevant to RDNO and the work done on Coldstream Creek and Swan Lake.
- Mr. Flintoft (BCWF): they have had ongoing liaisons on wetland issues at the provincial level which fits in with what OWSC is doing. With regard to fisheries and water related issues, Rick Simpson is the chair on the fisheries committee and liaison with ONA and is very involved in all issues related to Kokanee on Wood Lake, the Okanagan River, and Sockeye migration into Skaha and potentially Okanagan Lake. They have a proposal (for an HCTF grant) to conduct a comprehensive 3 year mule deer study in the Kettle Basin/Boundary Area. Ms. Kirk indicated that they have a corridor study for Hwy 97 in the South Okanagan that she will get to Jesse/Doug.
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): pass
- Mr. Edwards (DFO): followed up a bit on the infrastructure program and noted that there were about 30 projects already announced and Nov 23 is the deadline for the next round. He is involved with a couple of projects in the Okanagan: the Okanagan River Restoration and

funding approval for another spawning platform at Penticton; and a PIB/ONA project looking at fish passage on Ellis Creek. There are about four programs open right now accepting applications for various projects. He will be sending information on to Nelson who will distribute to the group.

- Ms. Rahimova (guest): pass
- Mr. Littley (OWBW): at the November Board meeting he will be putting out the call for applications for the Water Conservation Quality Improvement Grant. The deadline is Feb 17, 2017.
- Mr. Guy (CWRA): the Annual CWRA Conference is June 3, 4, and 5, 2017 in Lethbridge and it is the 50th Anniversary of the organization. The theme is Transboundary Water with a special session on the CRT being planned.

6. NEW RAPP APP (Jesse Zeman, Jon Corbett, Josh Lockwood)

Mr. Zeman is with BCWF. Mr. Corbett is an associate professor at UBC-O. Mr. Blackwell is a software developer working on GIS based applications. Mr. Lockwood is the Operations Supervisor for the North Okanagan Conservation Officer Services. The new RAPP App is being developed as a way to take on the enforcement of violations occurring in our backcountry. Enforcement is difficult to achieve and made even more difficult due to the size of BC. The RAPP App is a form of "crowd sourced enforcement". Over the years, it is being discovered more and more by BCWF, and others groups and individuals, that BCs backcountry is being treated like a dump and there is a need to create some sort of approach to show that we are not taking care of the environment. A lot of the work that is done at the Institute is around the development of custom web applications for organizations that have some need to create spatial data. For BCWF, there is no systematic way to report or document the infractions that are being seen out in the backcountry. Mr. Corbett's group was developing an online mapping tool that was seen as being potentially useful for BCWF. However, just having a web based system would not be enough. They required something more versatile/mobile so that information can be recorded in real time. A number of technical issues needed to be overcome in order for this tool to work effectively. The Council was provided with an overview of how the web app works and then shown how it interfaces with the mobile app. The group has discussed, demonstrated and gotten feedback from various stakeholders. They are hoping to launch the product soon but have had a number of challenges in terms of working with the various

ministries involved, completing a privacy impact assessment, and ensuring capacity issues are dealt with. Mr. Lockwood provided some feedback from a law enforcement perspective. The tool is leading edge and an asset. The Vancouver PD has recently released a similar app. The benefits of this type of app are two-fold. First, the information that the COS receive will be timely and, second, they will be able to better determine the response that is needed. The City of Vancouver used something similar last year during the drought and the reporting of violations of water usage. Mr. Zeman noted that the app will provide organizations with the ability to go back and look at what was happening during the same time last year and potentially pinpoint hotspots of trouble that may reoccur.

7. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & COMMITTEES

Two committees met in the morning: Wetlands Committee, and Water Sustainability Act and Groundwater Committee. Both of the committees had recommendations that need to come back to the Council. First is to start looking at a recommendation to the Board around wetlands and specifically ephemeral wetlands. The committee will be working on a policy framework that will be shared with the Council by email and presented at the next meeting.

One of the things that has been discussed at the roundtable was the need to be able to talk to the Province and request from them a list of priority regulations they are currently under development or will be under development in the near future under the WSA. This will be done and circulated to the Council. There is an opportunity to prepare a Joint Board/Council letter to the Province, signed by the Chair of OBWB and the Chair of the OWSC advocating for Okanagan issues of importance as they relate to the WSA. There were a number that were talked about in the morning's meetings: groundwater/surface water data and how it is integrated and managed; more money for research for groundwater aquifer delineation; government applied research; advocate for hydrometric monitoring and more stations; and advocate for water and food security. A letter will be drafted and will be circulated to the OWSC for input and then present the letter to the Board for review.

The committee meetings marked the end of the committee structure for this term. In November, there will be an opportunity to discuss the role of the committees and which ones the Council should be working with.

There will be a series of emails sent out over the next little while that are drafted documents and

input and feedback will be solicited on those documents.

An exit survey for this past 18 month term of Council is being circulated to members and the information will be looked at with past Chairs of the Council and they will look at how that information can help inform the next 18-month term of the OWSC.

8. CHAIR REPORT

New Council positions were discussed at the Board in September and October. There has been some discussion about the potential value-added to the Council by slightly expanding the membership to include individuals that have been involved with the Council before and contributed in the past but who are not represented by one of the organizations that make up the Council. The Board has asked Council with a recommendation on this concept. Mr. Guy proposed that OWSC create a small nominating committee that would come up with a list of selection criteria for those Council positions: 3 new Council positions. The criteria and process to be used needs to be developed. He suggested that the Council Chair and Vice Chair along with two other Council members and Mr. Jatel in an ex officio role meet to come up with those recommendations for Council to review and then present to the Board.

Mr. Guy proposed the following motion: Create a nominating committee in order to fulfill that function with the noted members. Doug Edwards seconded the motion. Discussion: the idea of expanding the Council was not fully discussed. Why does the Board think that extra members are required on Council? The Board is not specifically asking the Council to expand but it is recognizing that there could be some value-added to the Council. It does not mean the Council would have to add members only that they would now have the opportunity to do so should they feel the need. Ms. Sears commented that the Board approved in principle the appointment of 2 emeritus members (long serving council members that have retired and wish to continue serving on the Council) and a special seat for a youth position. The Board felt that would be acceptable but would be contingent on defining criteria for those positions. The nominating committee may come up with the recommendation that it may not be a good idea for Council to expand their membership. It was noted that the Council has always been open to guests and guests are welcome to contribute to the discussions at hand so expanding the membership may not be necessary. There was a diversity of views presented on the issue which brought the discussion back to the idea of

creating a sub-committee to come up with a recommendation that Council can then debate and present to the Board for approval. ***The question was called for all those in favor of creating a nominating committee. All were in favor. None were opposed and the motion was carried. Ms. Kirk and Mr. Edwards volunteered to be a part of the nominating committee.***

The next term of Council starts next month. At the beginning of the next meeting, an election will be held for the Chair and the Vice Chair. The usual process is for the Vice Chair to be nominated to become the Chair but this can change and there is opportunity for nominations from the floor. Mr. Guy is willing to be Chair if he is nominated. Following the election, the hope is to get to work in providing input on priorities for the next Council. Mr. Guy is looking at designing a workshop style meeting to identify the key priorities and what priorities Council should be working on. There will not be a guest speaker at the next meeting. At the Dec 8th

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

meeting, Linda Nowlan will be presenting on the Federal Fisheries Act and a gap analysis report. Ms. Sears' Annual Christmas party will follow the Dec 8th meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be on Thursday, November 10, 2016 from 12:30 to 4:30 at Okanagan Regional Library, 1430 KLO Road Kelowna.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Moved by Ian Rogalski

"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of October 13, 2016 be adjourned."

CARRIED

Executive Director