

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

AMENDED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, November 10, 2016, 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 Ground Water Association
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
Canadian Water Resources Association
City of Vernon
Environment and Climate Change Canada – West and North
Interior Health Authority
Irrigation Industry Association of BC
Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (Resource Mgmt)
Okanagan Forest Sector
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Regional District of North Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
UBC Okanagan
UBC Okanagan

Shawn Badasha (alt)
Hans Buchler
Remi Allard (alt)
Doug Flintoft
Lorne Davies
Brian Guy
Rob Miles (alt)
Ian Rogalski (alt)
Rob Birtles
Bruce Naka (alt)
Andrew Petersen
Grant Furness
Murray Wilson
Margaret Bakelaar
Renee Clark
Zoe Kirk
Bernie Bauer
Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo (alt)

Regrets

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch
BC Cattlemen's Association
BC Fruit Growers Association
BC Water Supply Association
City of Kelowna
City of Penticton
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (OSNR)
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Okanagan College
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board
Okanagan Nation Alliance

Denise Neilsen/Scott Smith (alt.)
Lee Hesketh/Linda Allison
Denise MacDonald/Glen Lucas
Toby Pike/Patti Meger
Andrew Reeder/Jason Ough
Andrew Martin
Doug Edwards
Caroline Grover/Tom Dyas
Robert Warner/Ray Crampton
Scott Boswell/Tanis Gieselman
Allison MacMillan/Leif Burge
David O'Keefe/Howard Newfeld
Zoe Masters/Natasha Lukey

STAFF

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

Anna Warwick Sears
Nelson Jatel
James Littley
Corinne Jackson
Kellie Garcia

GUESTS

Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
UBC-O
UBC-O
Westcoast CED Consulting

Carol Luttmer
Marni Turek
Nargiz Rahimova
Karol Hansma

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Moved by Rob Birtles

Seconded by Zoe Kirk

“That the agenda for the November 10, 2016 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Doug Flintoft

Seconded by Rob Birtles

“That the minutes from the October 8, 2016 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved”

CARRIED

4. BOARD REPORT—Ms. Warwick Sears

Ms. Sears spoke about three things in her report: collaboration, OBWB Strategic Plan, and OBWB Board report. In terms of collaboration, in light of what has been happening politically south of the border, she commented on the need to continue the OBWB/OWSC work in the Okanagan. *“Collaboration and science based decision making are a philosophy as much as they are a practice. Collaboration is scalable and flexible and can take many different forms. To work it needs a particular commitment, training, and mindset. It flourishes in an information rich environment with high levels of communication. As more people (immigrants, refugees) migrate to Canada, more people will move to the Okanagan. We must continue working together with all communities and all levels of government to put plans in place to continue meeting our water needs as we grow. It is important to work on soft resources – human and natural assets – and reinforcing social and ecological networks. Clear thinking, clear visioning and people working together sharing information, using science and data, and engaging in shared planning.”* Ms. Sears thanked the OWSC for their commitment and support in protecting Okanagan water.

Second, Ms. Sears spoke about the OBWB and its relationship with the OWSC. The Water Board was formed and had its initial meeting in 1968. The earliest minutes talk about the water board being

a partnership of local governments working together to protect Okanagan water quality and water supply. The first terms of reference created specified that *“the Water Board will establish a liaison committee consisting of persons appointed by such municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, government agencies as the Water Board may determine and the liaison committee shall advise on such matters as may, from time to time, be referred to it by the Water Board.”* For the Board to function, it needs to have input from all different parts of the water sector. In 2006, the liaison committee was reestablished as the OWSC. The OWSC energizes the work of the Board, informs the Board, and it addresses problems brought forward by the Board. Through 10 years of shared learning, there have been very strong bonds that have been built that demonstrate the value of the Council. In Appendix III of the OBWB Governance Manual, the Terms of Reference of the OWSC is written out. An excerpt of the Governance Manual is found in Appendix 1 and 2 of the OWSC’s Workplan.

Third, Ms. Sears provided a brief Board report from their meeting on November 3rd. The main highlight of the meeting was the approval of their budget for the next fiscal year. The OWSC’s proposed Wetland policy has been given to the new ONA representative, Lisa Wilson, who has taken it to ONA for their input and review. The Board reviewed the OWSC’s letter to the Province regarding the WS Act. The letter was approved by the Board. Ms. Sears also reported on the survey of water suppliers she completed a few years ago which she has been developing into an evaluation of different aspects of the Okanagan’s state of readiness and comparing about 17 major water suppliers. If you would like a copy let Anna know.

5. ELECTION OF TERM CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Jatel informed the Council that he has one nomination for Chair, Dr. Brian Guy, and Brian has let his name stand. Mr. Jatel called for further nominations from the floor for Chair. This call was repeated two more times and having received no further nominations Brian Guy was declared Chair by acclamation.

Mr. Jatel informed the Council that he has one nomination for Vice-Chair in absentia, Dr. Denise Neilsen, and Denise has let her name stand. Mr. Jatel called for further nominations for Vice-Chair. This call was repeated two more times and

having received no further nominations Denise Neilsen was declared Vice-Chair by acclamation.

Rob Birtles was acclaimed Past Chair.

Mr. Jatel handed the meeting over to Brian Guy.

6. REVIEW OBWB, OWSC, and STAFF ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. Jatel provided an overview of the relationship between the Council and the Board and staff as well as a look at the history and accomplishments of some of the previous Councils.

The OWSC's Workplan 7.0 was circulated with the Agenda for review. Appendix 4 includes a list of OWSC members. Some members have already been confirmed and Nelson is waiting to hear back from others. This will be confirmed by December's meeting. Part 1 of the workplan talks about the context for the OWSC. Part 2 looks at where the OWSC has come from and summarizes the web-based survey completed by 2015-16 Council members. Part 3 is about where the OWSC plans to go and the key priorities and will be developed following this meeting based on the OWSC members input in the breakout groups.

Figure 1 of the Workplan is a diagram of the OBWB governance framework and shows how the Council is "nested within the broader water governance framework of the OBWB." Some of the confusions outlined in the past are around how the Council engages with projects or initiatives, how staff chooses to work on projects and what input they have on what projects are done, and who engages in the projects and at what level. There are different ways that projects are realized: 1) OWSC will recommend projects to the Board for the Board to direct staff to see if there is funding available to do a project; and 2) projects are based on funding opportunities that come through OBWB (there are a lot of conversations at OBWB around where the gaps are and watching for funding opportunities to meet those gaps). However, as indicated by Ms. Sears, the primary source for project comes from conversations with Council members.

The Board priorities are summarized on page 7 of the Workplan and outline four general goals for the Okanagan. The Council's priorities and goals should be related to/within these four goals/structures. One member noted that the idea of supporting adaptive management, science and research isn't explicitly written in these goals. Nelson noted that while this isn't specifically laid

out, throughout the document it talks about how the goals are achieved and adaptive management and supporting good science is built up. As well, within each of the goals are sub-goals that are more detailed. The final section of Part 1 looks at what documents are being used to support the role and operations of Council. There are five as outlined in the Workplan. It was noted that every Council member should have a copy of the Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy Action Plan 1.0.

Part 2 of the workplan looks back on previous Councils and projects undertaken. For example, the Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy is one of the OWSC's greatest successes and it continues to be a "go to" document. There is also a summary of the most recent Council's term and an outline of the six goals set. The previous Council had a number of accomplishments based on those goals. There is a summary of some key findings from the member survey conducted at the end of the last term which indicate that the general consensus is that Council is functioning well. The previous Council identified a number of important priorities and recommendations for the new term of Council and these are summarized at the end of Part 2.

Part 3 outlines the Goals, Actions and Plans moving forward with the new term of Council. This section is being developed as a direct result of information brought forward in the breakout groups. This new Workplan will guide the OBWB staff moving forward and help facilitate the formation of the Council's committee structure for the coming term.

7. FACILITATED BREAKOUT GROUP REPORTING

This provided an opportunity to hear what went on at each table. They groups were instructed to look at the individual organizations priorities briefly and then look at what the priorities for this term of the OWSC should be.

Group 1 (Nelson) – talked about WS plans (2 years away from having underlying regulations); Agriculture water; the need to create groundwater regulation outreach (this is time sensitive with deadlines 3-4 months in terms of the registering of wells); foreshore protection; source water protection; template development (IH needs for an action plan, coordination, surface water support); water reserves; EFN; drought and flood planning; metrics around recreational water; cumulative

impacts; providing a forum for communication-what's happening within the regions.

Group 2 (Zoe/James) – talked about adding flood planning into drought planning; communication is a big thing (increased communication between members; OWSC back to Regional Districts, utilizing toolkits, etc. gap between what happens here and getting back to board levels); updating documents that have been produced with new, updated information; at a glance – enjoy round table discussions but need something more (like a matrix that is fillable and that members can access and update with their information. This would allow Council members to see what each other is doing, who's doing what and when. A spreadsheet that would provide an at a glance big picture); source water protection; invasive; wetland protection/restoration/maintain & monitor those being encroached on; stormwater management; WS Act (crop differentiation-might affect licensing); current OWSC priorities (strengthen alliance with ONA and individual Bands; support UBC with research; CWRA policy & data management); groundwater science (some groups can really help with the research and populate the data while others need the documents); supply demand study; state of the Basin.

Group 3 (Carol Luttmer) – felt that looking at organizations' priorities was a good way to start. They found that there were common themes amongst the organizations, i.e. making wise land and water decisions (these need to be based on wise knowledge and data); OWSC feeds into those. Priorities (existing) – collaborating with OK First Nations (not specific resources allocated but always project specific basis; great job being done on invasives but wonder if OWSC shouldn't also be looking at what to do if they do arrive in the Okanagan (research and educate local government); continual focus on EFN, drought and storm water; keep moving forward; stronger extension work (good data/good knowledge); how can we benefit from extending and communicating what other groups are doing; opportunities to partner/connect with the academic world and students.

Group 4 (Rob Birtles) – further input on WSA and regulations (there hasn't been a good opportunity for Board/Council to be consulting); piloting approaches for wetlands; climate adaptation (drought/flood/ecosystem services/environmental protection); FN relationship building (sharing and

learning); public education outreach (reach out to the public so they are informed and take ownership); advocate for OBWB and show what matters.

Common Themes – droughts/floods; communicate out to member organizations and public extension; EFN; WS Act and regulations; FN relationships; Source Water; Natural value capitalization; improved flow of collaboration between UBCO and OWSC members (utilizing existing researchers).

Wrap up – form a committee that maybe includes a volunteer from each of the groups to look at the notes and incorporate into the Work Plan for the next 18 months. Margaret Bakelaar, Rob Birtles, Zoe Kirk, Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo, Marnie Turrett along with Brian Guy, Denise Neilsen and Nelson Jatel.

8. MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): pass
- Ms. Warwick Sears (OBWB): pass
- Mr. Birtles (IH): pass
- Mr. Petersen (MAg): focus continues to be on WS Act and water licensing.
- Mr. Rogalski (ECCC): a few program announcements were included with the Agenda mail out. The National Energy Board review panel has been announced. ECCC has announced funding of four projects, all within the Okanagan: 1) support OBWB work on Mission Creek groundwater surface water interaction; 2) ONA for stream monitoring; 3) UBCO for ecosystem services; and 4) OCCP to implement biodiversity conservation strategy.
- Mr. Badasha (APEGBC): this is his first meeting. He works for Urban Systems. He just recently moved back to the Okanagan; grew up in Penticton. He has previously worked in Alberta and Vancouver.
- Ms. Rahimova (guest): pass
- Mr. Buchler (BCAC): brought up a point of clarification with regards to crop water and licensing.
- Ms. Turek (UBC-O): UBCO Watershed Management Research Extension facilitator. She moved to the Okanagan from the Lower Mainland (Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable) building their watershed plan and facilitating their roundtable which looks very

highly on the work being done at OWSC/OBWB. What is being done in the Okanagan is a model for others and the CRWRt is looking at how to advance themselves and sustainably fund themselves as an organization. She has also worked within local government.

- Ms. Bakelaar (RDCO): number of collaborative programs they work on or fund. They are doing the source water protection planning for Killiney Beach west shore on Okanagan Lake. They are working on foreshore inventory and mapping. The mapping part was done for Okanagan Lake this fall. Attended an environmental planning workshop hosted by OCCP and Planning Institute of BC November 4th. MCRI completed Phase 1 and is moving onto Phase 2. Looking at continuing Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping on Mission Creek.
- Ms. Clark (RDNO): working on budgets; water planning; forest and water conference hosted by FLNRO; Greater Vernon water utility has gone to ertz (electronic reader transmitters). They are moving forward with vulnerability mapping on the Duteau watershed and on the Kal Lake source next year. They are updating their Drought Management Plan.
- Mr. Allard (BCGWA): work on flowing artisan wells (liability and cost of controlling them as defined under the groundwater protection regulation); updating groundwater protection regulation handbook which is about 10 years old.
- Mr. Bauer (UBCO): pass
- Ms. Luttmer (guest): couple of updates for OCCP. They are partners on the foreshore inventory mapping on Okanagan Lake. They are also collaborating on water source protection assessments for Wood Lake and Kal Lake; data collection is done. They have updated the OBWB wetland inventory data into the OK Habitat Atlas which is an online tool available to the public.
- Mr. Furness (FLNRO): trying to put a climate change lens to the business they do. There are significant overlaps with the work being done at OWSC, i.e. EFN, drought, wetlands, fish and aquatic ecosystems, and species at risk.
- Mr. Wilson (OFS): gave recognition to Renee Clark who was a presenter at the Forest and Water Workshop. It was an excellent, very interesting presentation. The warm, wet weather is playing havoc on the roads, and log yards across the province are experiencing shortages. Working with FLNRO on fishery sensitive watershed guard orders.
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): looking at having more collaboration and more working partnerships with First Nations on fish and wildlife issues. More of their members are becoming aware of water issues and there have been more internal discussions. One of the big areas of concern is a leaking septic field on Osoyoos Lake. Having an avenue to get a response back regarding these concerns shows that they are listening and that they do care and they want the public to care.
- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): OASISS receives funding through OBWB for outreach on DMM campaign and they provided a report back to OBWB. Some of the key findings are: survey with boaters that showed a noticeable decrease in the proportion of out of province boaters from Alberta but an increase in those from Manitoba (which is a concern because they have mussels). The highest reported sources of information were: boat launch signs, inspection stations, radio and billboards. This shows that the tools being used are effective in reaching the public. Flow & Grow is a workshop being held November 29th in partnership with IIABC and Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC.
- Mr. Flintoft (BCWF): their quarterly meeting will be December 3rd.
- Ms. Restrepo-Tamayo (UBCO): UBC BRAES Institute hosting an Okanagan Research Forum on December 5th at the Kelowna Yacht Club. For more info go to www.okresearchforum.geolive.ca
- Mr. Naka (IIABC): Flow & Grow: Balancing economy, ecology and settlement in the Okanagan, November 29th. Talked about some new technology and products available that promote water conservation and efficiencies. He has been looking at Biochar which has some valuable properties for irrigation and for soil. It is great for filtering. Looking at the possibility of using this product as a secondary filter. UBCO is doing some trials on it and are finding some interesting things.
- Ms. Garcia (OBWB): November 16th is the Drought Triggers Workshop for getting input on the proposed Drought Trigger Guidelines for the Okanagan Mainstem Lakes. Also, working on the toolkits project. OBWB matched a grant and she is looking at all the different toolkits and seeing which toolkits are being used and how they are being used and identify solutions to increase and optimize use of these toolkits. Corinne and

Kellie were part of a documentary, which a French film crew is filming on Wine & Civilization, speaking about the water perspective.

- Mr. Littley (OWBW): Applications for WCQI grants can now be submitted. The deadline for submissions is February 17th. He has heard back from PNWER about the letter that OBWB submitted regarding the stockpiling of potash. The indication is that there is no intention to stockpile. They want to clarify some of the federal regulations and potentially start the approval process on a few different chemicals. Also, they know that there are no open water applications. He hasn't heard anything officially yet.
- Ms. Kirk (RDOS): going through their budgeting process and it is grant writing time and reporting back out to funders, and they are getting RPs out for wetland development. They have also been notified by the federal government that they are being audited for water systems. It is an onerous process but she feels that in the end it will be good and they will be able to report out on it. The government is gathering information on all the different types of water purveyors: City, Municipality, Irrigation District, and Regional District.
- Mr. Guy (CWRA): they are organizing a conference in Ottawa on January 27, 2017 called Climate Extremes and it is about national collaboration on floods and droughts. On November 23rd, they have a webinar from the Alberta Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry titled Developing a Treatment Method to Protect Alberta's Irrigation Pipelines from Invasive Dreissenid Mussels. Their Annual Conference is being held in Lethbridge in June.
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CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

9. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Guy summarized his thoughts on moving forward with this next term of Council and indicated that he sees Council as promoting a culture of inclusiveness and collaboration. He wants to make sure Council meetings are productive and that everyone has an opportunity to contribute and that the goals being set out from today's participation are achieved. He will be looking at ways that the Council can do a better job of outreach and extension and communication as was put forth in the breakout groups. He extended his thanks to Council members for their input today as it will form the basis for a good plan. Mr. Jatel acknowledged past Chair Rob Birtles and his time and dedication to the Council this past term.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be on Thursday, December 8, 2016 from 12:30 to 4:30 at Okanagan Regional Library, 1430 KLO Road Kelowna. The Workplan document as reviewed and amended by the Committee will be looked at. Linda Nowlan will be speaking on the Federal Fisheries Act and Professor Stewart Cohen will be talking about climate change.

Ms. Sears will be hosting her annual event after the December Council meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Moved by Ian Rogalski

"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of November 10, 2016 be adjourned."

CARRIED

Executive Director