

# OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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

## **AMENDED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, December 8, 2016, AT OKANAGAN REGIONAL LIBRARY, 1430 KLO ROAD, KELOWNA, B.C.**

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### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

#### Present

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch  
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch  
Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.  
Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.  
Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.  
BC Agriculture Council  
BC Water Supply Association  
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8  
Canadian Water Resources Association  
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 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 (Vice Chair)  
Scott Smith (alt)  
Don Dobson  
Suzan Lapp (alt)  
Shawn Badasha (alt)  
Hans Buchler  
Rob Hrasko (alt.)  
Doug Flintoft  
Brian Guy (Chair)  
Ian Rogalski (alt)  
Rob Birtles  
Ted Van der Gulik (alt)  
Andrew Petersen  
Grant Furness  
Scott Boswell/Tanis Gieselman (alt)  
Murray Wilson  
Margaret Bakelaar  
Renee Clark  
Zoe Kirk  
Bernie Bauer

#### Regrets

BC Cattlemen's Association  
BC Fruit Growers Association  
BC Ground Water Association  
City of Kelowna  
City of Penticton  
City of Vernon  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (OSNR)  
Okanagan College  
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board  
Okanagan Nation Alliance

Lee Hesketh/Linda Allison  
Kevin Day/Richard McDonald (alt)  
Marta Green/Remi Allard (alt)  
Andrew Reeder/Jason Ough  
Andrew Martin  
Ed Stranks/Rob Miles (alt)  
Doug Edwards  
Caroline Grover/Tom Dyas  
Robert Warner/Ray Crampton  
Allison MacMillan/Rob St. Onge (alt)  
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

Environment and Climate Change Canada  
OBWB, Hydrology Intern  
UNBC  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
Westcoast CED Consulting  
Westcoast CED Consulting  
West Coast Environmental Law

Stewart Cohen  
Sabrina Mittag  
Darwin Horning  
Craig Nicol  
John Janmaat  
Marni Turek  
Nargiz Rahimova  
Karol Hansma  
Victor Cumming  
Linda Nowlan

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

2. **APPROVE AGENDA**

Moved by Zoe Kirk

Seconded by Bernie Bauer

*“That the agenda for the December 8, 2016 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”*

**CARRIED**

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Doug Flintoft

Seconded by Hans Buchler

*“That the minutes from the November 10, 2016 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved”*

**CARRIED**

4. **BOARD REPORT—Ms. Warwick Sears**

OBWB held their meeting on December 6, 2016. A lot of the meeting was devoted to updates on Zebra/Quagga mussels. Lisa Scott of the OASISS presented on the 2016 public outreach and the recent developments of mussels being found in Eastern Montana in two different reservoirs. There is an emergency call to action December 9<sup>th</sup>. There is a real concern that the next step will bring them past the Rockies. The Board had some lengthy discussions around this and will be sending another round of letters to the Federal/Provincial governments pushing for a stronger mussel defence. The Board has been actively working on registering their milfoil vessels with Transport Canada. Conversations with different municipal law experts indicate that because the Board is not incorporated it is not able to register the vessels and they have to transfer their equipment to RDOS for registering.

5. **CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER (Stewart Cohen)**

Mr. Cohen has been with Environment Canada (ECCC) for the past 32 years. He has been involved in climate change research throughout the Okanagan and across Canada for many years and was invited to speak to the Council on some recent research that he has been doing in the Okanagan and elsewhere. He has worked with the adaptation group within EC and worked on a report about expanding the dialogue on climate change and water in the Okanagan with Ms.

Neilsen. He has also worked on climate water availability across Canada and is involved in the Pan Canadian framework on climate change that is being announced on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the First Ministers’ Meeting.

Mr. Cohen’s interest has been in developing a more collaboration approach to studying climate change and water and the importance of developing partnerships between the research community, local knowledge holders, and practitioners. The Okanagan experiment has contributed to research literature but it has also had a big impact on the broader discourse on climate change beyond the region. His presentation is on Climate Impacts on Water Availability in Canada. He worked with a few others reviewing all of the literature available on climate and water availability in terms of observed trends and future scenarios and it was published as a three part series in the Canadian Water Resources Journal last year. There are people across the country doing similar work but there is a lot of fragmentation in all of the work, both in the results and the methods being used, which makes comparisons between studies difficult. This creates a challenge in terms of learning from other hydrologic practitioners about what is the best way to put climate change into the model and what is the best way to express that so it is of interest to groups like OWSC. Further to that, no one can agree on the specifics of future climate change. This uncertainty comes from not only the global climate projection but also because the hydrologic tools that are being used disagree with each other. They need to figure out how to bring the global climate modelers and regional/watershed scale hydrology together on a sustainable basis and be able to translate global climate change into local water risk. They may never be able to get rid of all of the uncertainties but there are things that can be said which can be the basis for moving ahead on a number of water management activities for climate change.

6. **2016-19 COUNCIL WORKPLAN**

Mr. Jatel reviewed the draft workplan indicating that the key part of the plan is Section 3, page 20: Looking Forward. A summary of the planning workshop at the November Council meeting is found in Appendix 9. Five themes emerged from the planning workshop: 1) collaboration; 2) data, science, and policy; 3) conservation and

restoration; 4) climate (change, resilience, mitigation); and, 4) knowledge transfer. A small working group was put together after the November workshop including: Zoe Kirk, Margaret Bakelaar, Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo, Denise Neilsen, Rob Birtles, Brian Guy and Nelson Jatel. The concept of First Nations reconciliation/engagement is at the forefront in Canada and there is a paragraph on page 20 that speaks to this with the idea being that First Nation engagement plays a part in all of the themes. The Council was asked for input on the themes. Some discussion came about regarding what to do about irrigation in the valley. There is a lot of discussion in the document about improving water use efficiency, drought planning, water supply and demand but the topic of irrigation seems to be missing yet there still seems to be a major issue around water use efficiency and irrigation. What can be done/what should the OWSC be doing; i.e., train the people who design irrigation systems and require them to have certification, ask for plans to be submitted. As the Council moves forward in the new term, different committees will likely be formed and an extension outreach committee is a possibility. Irrigation and efficiencies is an issue that could maybe be put to that committee. The work that Ms. Garcia is doing with water by-laws and getting local governments to adopt them is raising awareness among the planners. Drought planning is being worked on. The foundational pieces are being put in place and discussions can then take place around the appropriate roles of OBWB and OWSC. Another comment indicated that there are good, solid, simple points in the workplan and they are clear. Another member brought up the fact that Agriculture seems to be only mentioned once in the document in the periphery. It is the biggest user and should be more prominent. Ms. Jackson spoke to the outreach component and getting information out to the public. People see the pie chart showing water usage and see that 80% is agriculture. The second largest piece is lawns and gardens and the piece that if being focused on. However, there is some push back about Agriculture use. They support and show the efficient practices of the Ag sector but residents do notice and complain about the Ag usage (noted that there is a lack of understanding of the needs of the Agriculture industry in terms of water usage). The Council needs to enforce a culture of collaboration and

influence on the planning. As an organization and as individuals, OWSC and its members can play a stronger role in outreach and education by being involved with the committees. Comment was made that the Ministry of Agriculture does put out bulletins about agricultural use however it seems that some of those bulletins tend to stay with the agriculturalists themselves. Maybe these bulletins can be reworked to be more lay-person friendly and distributed to the general public.

The discussion was brought back to the overall workplan, the guiding themes, and actions items. The action items are a good set of points. They have some context and there are some actions to be moved on. Maybe it is here that there could be another bullet on agriculture (or should agriculture be embedded in all of the points). It was also brought up that maybe there should be an irrigation bullet.

The concept of a technical committee was discussed again. It is thought that this type of a committee would be a good idea in order to understand what is going on, what can be done about it, and what process can be set up do deal with it. From the technical committee, a communications committee can then communicate it out.

The seven areas of focus for this Council's term were discussed further. These areas are: 1) update Sustainable Water Strategy (this is a big job involving a status report on where things are at with the 2008 plan; state of the basin report to set baseline conditions; worthwhile to do a natural capital valuation). 2) Technical Study. The supply and Demand Study of 2004-2010 made a number of recommendations for ongoing research and data collaboration and many have been followed and/or completed and the thought had been to update it in five years time. The idea would be to have the various Council members' contribute to the scope of work to be included in an update to this study. 3) Policy committee that would be reactive and respond to requests for input on legislation and be proactive to seek out opportunities to influence policies and legislation. 4) Public outreach extension communication committee. OBWB staff does an excellent job of communication but Council could potentially play a larger role in that effort. For example, how do we generate a stronger relationship between Council and the academic community? Or, helping to

implement some of the things, toolkits, being developed. 5) EFN Phase 2. There is more work that needs to be done and maybe a committee can be charged with designing a framework for decision making. 6) Focus on source water protection (part of the Sustainable Water Strategy but there is more work that needs to be done). 7) Drought and flood planning. OBWB is a leader in promoting drought planning. Flood planning is the other side of climate change and there are concerns about stormwater and flooding as well.

There was some discussion on whether an updated Sustainable Water Strategy was necessary and whether the Council's time would be better spent on the water sustainability plan. It was noted that the SWS is a handy document to use but it is outdated. The process of redevelopment will help with building a water sustainability plan. This would be a reexamination of the Strategy and reinforce the principles and reinforce what the right things are for the region. Things are changing that didn't/weren't happening when the document was developed.

Some further discussion took place on the idea of adding an 8<sup>th</sup> action item bullet that involves irrigation (irrigation management/technical committee) and the idea of developing a technical process/document about what are we going to do about irrigation. What are the options? When this is done then it can go to the communications group to communicate it out.

It was brought up that staff support for the committees may not be as much as it has been in the past and there is concern that the committees may not take off without a lead.

***Bernie Bauer made a motion to adopt the Workplan as an action plan with the added 8<sup>th</sup> bullet point focusing on irrigation management. Murray Wilson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor and the motion was carried.***

Any further comments regarding the workplan were asked to be submitted by December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Jatel addressed the issue that a number of groups were not represented at the meeting today (BCFGA, industrial, urban) and it is critical to have that level of outreach in order to get the varying perspectives into the plan. He encouraged the members to use the Workplan document as a discussion point with their organizations and help

to further engage those organizations with the work of the Council and OBWB.

#### **7. SCALING UP THE FISHERIES ACT (Linda Nowlan)**

Linda Nowlan is a staff lawyer at West Coast Environmental Law (WCEL) involved in creating a brief that outlines preliminary ideas on reforming Canada's essential fisheries law which was designed to help influence the current federal government in overturning two omnibus bills that substantially weakened the federal Fisheries Act provisions on fish habitat protection. "*Restoring strong habitat protection for all Canada's fish species will signal this government's commitment to fish and biodiversity protection.*" The brief makes preliminary recommendations for achieving two categories of reform: 1) restoring habitat protection and prohibitions against the killing of fish, and 2) conducting thorough public consultation to modernize the act. There are four reviews taking place within the federal government that focus on federal environmental laws including the Fisheries Act. There has been a consultation process which included an online consultation portal, Standing Committee hearings, and second phase of public consultation (Spring 2017). Habitat 2.0: A new approach to Canada's Fisheries Act (by WCEL) was submitted to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans outlines recommendations for a modern Fisheries Act which would 1) restore HADD and set enforceable criteria; 2) protect key elements of fish habitat, i.e. environmental flow needs 3) protect key areas of fish habitat; 4) protect fish habitat from key activities that can damage habitat; 5) protect from key threats, i.e. climate change; and 6) modernize governance. More information can be found at [http://www.envirolawsmatter.ca/environmental\\_reviews](http://www.envirolawsmatter.ca/environmental_reviews)

#### **8. MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE**

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Mr. Furness (FLNRO): the large lakes protocol has gone to the decision maker for sign off. This will guide work in important fish habitat. It is basically a zoning protocol that applies to the large lakes. He is hoping there will be/can be a presentation to the Council.
- Mr. Rogalski (ECCC): tomorrow, December 9<sup>th</sup>, there is a First Ministers' meeting being held in Ottawa.

- Mr. Bauer (UBCO): announced that Darwin Horning just recently defended his PhD dissertation on water governance.
- Mr. Petersen (MAG): working on livestock water regulation which should be done soon. The WSA workshops have been going well.
- Ms. Kirk (RDOS): just finishing up with the Provincial Water Audit and have provided 178 different documents to the process. They are also in the process of rewriting their water regulations by-laws.
- Mr. Cohen (guest): pass
- Mr. Badasha (APEGBC): pass
- Mr. Hrasko (BCWSA): grant deadlines for major water and waste water projects are coming due soon.
- Ms. Lapp (APEGBC): they are in the initial stages of seeing what the BC Work Water Use Reporting tool will look like.
- Mr. Cumming (guest): pass
- Ms. Mittag (OBWB): new hydrology intern for OBWB.
- Ms. Garcia (OBWB): working on the drought trigger guidelines and recently presented at workshop with water suppliers where there were about 30 people in attendance. Some of the things that came out of the workshop are: more work needs to be done; need to look at how the guidelines will be applied by utilities with multiple sources; and, what lake levels do they recommend that will trigger the various drought levels (requires some refinement). Generally, the guidelines were well received. She is also working on the agriculture drought status outreach project. They are working with two pilot utilities and looking at the best mechanisms for communicating with the Agriculture community. There is a call on Monday with the project team and oversight committee.
- Mr. Horning (guest/UNBC): he is part of the faculty at UNBC. He sits on two watershed committees (Nechako Watershed Governance Round Table and Columbia Basin Water Network). They are watching what happens here in the Okanagan to see what they can incorporate into their regions. Their focus has been on communication and bridging organizations. They are a fan of the work done by OBWB and OWSC.
- Mr. Nicol (guest/UBCO): providing advice in the North Okanagan and Hullcar area on ongoing work. He is finishing up a paper on stream temperatures.
- Mr. Janmaat (guest/UBCO): pass
- Ms. Neilsen (AAFC): pass
- Mr. Van der Gulik (IIABC): pass
- Mr. Smith (AAFC): pass
- Mr. Buchler (BCAC): pass
- Mr. Flintoft (BCWF): their quarterly meeting was held December 3<sup>rd</sup>. He provided an update on what the OWSC has been doing.
- Ms. Bakelaar (RDCO): participating in the Regional Growth Strategy. The work they have been doing on indicators is almost complete. There has been some difficulty in finding adequate indicators. The RDCO RGS Steering Committee is working on the RGS priorities projects plan for the next five years.
- Mr. Boswell (OCCP): they are involved in a number of restoration projects around Okanagan Lake.
- Ms. Clark (RDNO): work on the RGS with the Agriculture committee. The update on the drought management plan is almost complete. They are working on watershed risk vulnerability mapping for the Duteau watershed and looking to build that into the Kalamalka Lake protection. They are also looking at emergency response plans and had a meeting with Interior Health and Ministry of Environment on spill responses and where the gaps are.
- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): BCWF conservation application has been launched for I-phone users and there has been great demand by android users. The Flow and Grow workshop was a success. The Ecocentre has an alien invasives exhibit which is really good. She was on a call with the Kootenays last week regarding invasives and the sharing of ideas and information and where there can be collaboration. She has been fielding lots of calls from people/groups wanting to collaborate in 2017. She is still working on the final report for MWW and DMM.
- Ms. Rahimova (guest/UBCO): pass
- Ms. Turek (guest/UBCO): she is busy evaluating what extension could look like.
- Mr. Littley (OBWB): the WCQI grant deadline is February 17 at 4pm. He is part of an emergency call to action meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Guy (CWRA): the CWRA annual national conference is in June in Lethbridge.
- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): pass

**9. CHAIR REPORT**

No report. Mr. Bauer extended thanks to Corinne Jackson for all her work in leveraging a small amount of money into \$100,000s of exposure for the MWW and DMM campaigns.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

There is no meeting in January. The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be on Thurs., February 9, 2017 from 12:30 to 4:30. Location to be determined.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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**Chair**

**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 December 8, 2016 be adjourned.”***

**CARRIED**

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**Executive Director**