

# OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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

## AMENDED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, March 9, 2017, AT COAST CAPRI HOTEL, 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.  
BC Agriculture Council  
BC Cattlemen's Association  
BC Fruit Growers Association  
BC Ground Water Association  
BC Water Supply Association  
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8  
Canadian Water Resources Association  
Canadian Water Resources Association  
City of Kelowna  
Interior Health Authority  
Irrigation Industry Association of BC  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (OSNR)  
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (Resource Mgmt)  
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program  
Okanagan College  
Regional District of North Okanagan  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen  
UBC Okanagan

Denise Neilsen (Vice Chair)  
Scott Smith (alt)  
Don Dobson/Suzan Lapp/Shawn Badasha (alt)  
Hans Buchler  
Lee Hesketh  
Kevin Day  
Marta Green  
Bob Hrasko  
Doug Flintoft  
Brian Guy (Chair)/  
Rod MacLean (alt)  
Andrew Reeder  
Judi Ekkert (alt)  
Ted Van der Gulik/Bruce Naka (alt)  
Robert Warner  
Grant Furness  
Scott Boswell/Tanis Gieselman (alt)  
Allison MacMillan  
Renee Clark/Jennifer Miles (alt)  
Zoe Kirk  
Bernie Bauer/Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo (alt)

#### Regrets

BC Ministry of Agriculture  
City of Vernon  
Environment and Climate Change Canada – West and North  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce  
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board  
Okanagan Nation Alliance  
Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn  
Okanagan Basin Water Board

Andrew Petersen/Stephanie Tam (alt)  
Ed Stranks/Rob Miles (alt)  
Kendall Woo/Ian Rogalski (alt)  
Doug Edwards  
Caroline Grover/Tom Dyas/Jeff Robinson  
David O'Keefe/Howard Newfeld (alt)  
Natasha Lukey/Zoe Eyjolfson/Elinor McGrath  
Margaret Bakelaar/Chris Radford (alt)  
Murray Wilson/Michael Bragg (alt)  
Nelson Jatel (Water Stewardship Director)

### STAFF

OBWB, Executive Director  
OBWB, Operations and Grants Manager  
OBWB, Communications Director  
OBWB, Policy & Planning Specialist  
OBWB, Communications & Outreach Coordinator

Anna Warwick Sears  
James Littley  
Corinne Jackson  
Kellie Garcia  
Alyssa Bougie

### GUESTS

Freelance Writer  
Friends of Summerland Ornamental Gardens  
Kelowna Capital  
OBWB, Chair  
OBWB, Wetlands Coordinator  
South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program  
Trail Mix Author/Columnist  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
Watt Environmental  
Westcoast CED Consulting

Tom Walker  
Eva Antonijevic  
Barry Gerding  
Tracy Gray  
Don Gayton  
Bryn White  
Judi Steeves  
Marni Turek  
Nargiz Rahimova  
Mark Watt  
Karol Hansma

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Brian Guy called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed members and guests. Corinne addressed the group letting them know that after each OBWB meeting, a one page report outlining the highlights of the Board meeting is distributed to Council members. If you are not receiving this highlight report, please fill in your information on the paper that was circulated.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA**

**Moved by Hans Buchler**

**Seconded by Zoe Kirk**

***“That the agenda for the March 9, 2017 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”***

**CARRIED**

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Bernie Bauer**

**Seconded by Grant Furness**

*Natasha Lukey sent in a request for an amendment to her update on page 4 noting that the brood collection was 5.3 million eggs collected (not 2.3 as indicated).*

***“That the minutes from the February 9, 2017 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved”***

**CARRIED**

4. **BOARD REPORT (Ms. Warwick Sears)**

The OBWB held their meeting on March 7, 2017. Chair Gray/James/Anna recently met with Stephen Fuhr, MP for Kelowna/Lake Country, regarding the mussel issue and federal support. The meeting was positive and MP Fuhr indicated that the issue is being looked into. They are still hoping for federal engagement on the issue. Nelson/Brian/Anna recently had a conversation with the BC Branch of CWRA regarding a one-day workshop in the Okanagan in October 2018 that focuses on water science and policy for environmental stream flows. The BC Water Funders are looking at a gap analysis for what kinds of water quality and water supply monitoring are available in BC with the hope that it will help guide grant makers in determining the best, highest-value ways to direct funding and increase access to data. There was some discussion about the updates to the OWSC communication protocol (last updated in 2006) which were approved by the Board.

5. **CONNECTING THE DOTS (Bryn White, SOSCP & Scott Boswell, OCCP)**

Chair Guy introduced Ms. White and Mr. Boswell. Ms. White has been a past member of the Council and Mr. Boswell is a current member. In building on the comments from the November planning meeting, the Council is developing ways to build stronger relationships among Council members by having them present to talk about and discuss work they are doing as part of/with their organizations in terms of their mandate, supporters, and funders and how it might be possible for Council and OBWB to build stronger ties with these organizations. The SOSCP and OCCP are Partnerships of non-governmental, government, and First Nations organizations working together to conserve biodiversity and focus on conservation issues. The role of SOSCP and OCCP is to share information, provide a forum to coordinate efforts and resources, establish priorities, and leverage the power of working together. They exist because of the unique and important values in the Okanagan region. They have limited capacity but utilize others to help deliver/work on the various projects that are undertaken. The goals of the program are: to maintain the rich biodiversity of the area, keep the ecological corridor functioning, engage community, and balance the needs of the community with conservation. It was noted that not all of the regions in BC have biodiversity strategies and other programs are looking at the Okanagan as an example to learn from and draw from for information. In turn, this region also looks at what others are doing in order to learn from their experiences.

The two presented on the “Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Okanagan Region” and its relevance to OBWB/OWSC. There was also some discussion about the South Okanagan Conservation Fund and how it may work with/boost the OBWB’s Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program for future conservation projects. The OCCP is looking at moving forward on establishing a Conservation Fund for the Central Okanagan and North Okanagan as well. In wrapping up the presentation, they looked at ways in which the two programs might be able to engage/work more with OWSC/OBWB, at the same time being mindful of their limited capacity, including: Foreshore Plan for Okanagan Mainstem Lakes, Wetlands Strategy Phase 3, Collaborating with First Nations.

6. **KELOWNA INTEGRATED WATER SUPPLY**  
**(Andrew Reeder, City of Kelowna)**

Mr. Reeder was asked to speak to the Council about the Kelowna Integrated Water Supply plan and how it is/can be relevant to the OBWB & OWSC going forward. It was felt that some discussion needed to happen around some of the confusion, issues and concerns with the process of developing the Water Supply plan with the hope that they could present again to Council what was actually developed (present the actual plan). There are two parts/two processes (grant application and value planning) that are independent but both connected to the development of the new Plan. The first part involved the City applying for a grant to assist SOMID and SEKID. Last summer, SOMID approached the City of Kelowna because their system had failed and they needed emergency water. The City agreed to supply them with a connection to the city's system on the condition that the province would help with a grant. The City underwent a study to look at the scope of work needed to assist SOMID and looked at the opportunity to extend that assessment to SEKID. While they were assessing the scope of work required, they started on a value planning study process that was required by the Province (if any of the IDs were to obtain grant funding) to look at the 2012 plan to ensure the plan was the most cost-effective and efficient way to supply water. The process involved all of the Irrigation Districts within the City. The Irrigation Districts all signed off on the agreement that was developed. A Value Planning team was then hired and worked with representatives from local engineering firms, the regulators, the Province, the City and SEKID (the only ID to participate). The 2017 Kelowna Integrated Water Supply Plan is what the planning team came up with. The primary objectives of the plan are: best lowest cost solution irrespective of boundaries, flexible, meet IHA objectives, and meet farming values. One of the significant differences from the 2012 plan was the integration of the water supply in order to improve water quality and improve operational efficiency.

7. **MISSION CREEK: AGRICULTURE WATER RESERVE**  
**(Denise Neilsen, AAFC)**

Ms. Neilsen presented on the provision for the agriculture water reserve made under the new Water Sustainability Act. In 2013, they did a study using Mission Creek to see how they would go about setting up an agricultural water reserve. During the process they assembled a lot of information about licenses and water use and supply. They used the Water Demand Model to

determine water use and average water use by type and source. This model showed that the Mission Creek water use by Agriculture from all sources is about 25,000 ML which is about 50% of the average water use. Most of the agriculture water use is supported by storage with some coming from the aquifer and very little is coming from the Lake. They further looked at changes in demand in response to climate change, agricultural expansion on land suitable for irrigated agriculture, and urban expansion and found that licensed volumes appear sufficient to meet projected demand for Agriculture but not waterworks. They used the Mike-She model to look at water supply which is a good model when looking at the hydrology of Mission Creek. She noted that the Mission Creek (BMID) system is much less vulnerable than the Hydraulic Creek (SEKID) system. In moving towards an agricultural water reserve in Mission Creek, Ms. Neilsen concluded that water supply and demand modeling is suitable for determining current and future needs; surface water irrigation licences are sufficient to meet demands; waterworks licences are not be sufficient; supply may not be sufficient to meet demand or full license use; increased storage and drought planning is required; and, groundwater requirements are relatively small, but supply is not quantified.

8. **COMMITTEES REPORTS (8)**

The ***Source Water Protection/Wetlands Committee*** (Renee Clark) met last week with a face-to-face meeting that lasted about three hours. They outlined five tasks to start: 1) identifying where legislations protect water and where there gaps are; 2) wetlands; 3) SWOT analysis for source protection; 4) Follow-up GIS system and IL&B; 5) gathering Okanagan source assessments and liquid waste plans and looking at commonality and differences.

The ***Irrigation Management Committee*** (Bruce Naka) had their first meeting today and have set out two primary tasks: 1) solidify membership (another person or two); and, 2) looking at prioritizing objectives.

The ***OK Water Supply & Demand Committee*** (Denise Neilsen) had their first meeting today with the objective being to set out the scope of work for the next phase. They hope to have this ready by June. They reviewed the component models from the previous study and looked at their limitations and identified the need to develop a user friendly, multi-purpose system of models. They plan to have a half or one day meeting sometime over the next six weeks.

The **Communications Committee** (Zoe Kirk) meeting today for the first time and they looked at the parameters and protocols for communication. They looked at some of things that came out of the November meeting including internal communications between OWSC members and better communication between an organization's representative and the organization itself by ensuring that the things like the monthly Board reports get back to the member organizations. There was some discussion on the update to the Communications protocol. There was really no major change outside of an update from 2006. At the time, Anna was the only staff person at OBWB and the updated protocol acknowledges the additional staffing at the OBWB and their roles. The update also brought the protocol in line with the broader OBWB external communications protocol. One of the things this involves is keeping the Communications Director informed of what communication is happening with the public or media.

The **Drought and Flood Planning Committee** (Scott Boswell) will be meeting in a couple of weeks.

The **EFN Committee** (Doug Edwards) has a terms of reference and a list of committee members but has not had a meeting yet.

The **Sustainable Water Strategy committee** (Kellie Garcia) has a work plan in place and an editorial board in place which has eight Council members plus Kellie/Anna/Nelson. They have put together a survey that will be distributed early next week to Council.

## 9. **MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE**

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Ms. Neilsen (AAFC): pass
- Mr. Van der Gulik (IIABC): pass
- Ms. Steeves (guest): pass
- Mr. Boswell (OCCP): pass
- Mr. Buchler (BCAC): pass
- Mr. Hrasko (BCWSA): commended the District of Summerland on the excellent handling of the water shut down recently experienced in Summerland. There was a lot of planning and effort that went into the process.
- Ms. Kirk (RDOS): the RD has a new public works manager. They have received their water audit back from the Province and now have 45 days to respond/develop an action plan. She is hoping to be able to share with the OWSC the process the RD went through with the audit.
- Ms. Lapp (APEGBC): encourages everyone to go and see the Social Life of Water Exhibition at the Okanagan Heritage Museum. March is National

Engineering and Geoscience Month.

- Ms. Gray (OWSC/Guest): pass
- Mr. Hesketh (BCCA): pass
- Mr. Furness (FLNRO): it is an election year. Mountain Cariboo, forest enhancement, forest carbon strategy and climate change are all high on the agenda. The biggest carry over for this area will be climate change and attaining funds for wetland conservation. They have a new staff member starting next month – Amy Nixon. Rita Winkler has received the Distinguished Forester of the Year Award for 2016.
- Ms. Ekkert (IHA): spoke about the planning that went into the water shutdown in the District of Summerland and how the District made sure the public was informed of the proceedings. IH has released a report that has done out to water suppliers who have an opportunity to provide comment. They will be doing some selected interviews. If you are interested in being a part of that process then contact IHO or send an email to Judi.
- Mr. Bauer (UBCO): spoke about the Wilsey Dam Fish Passage committee that recently received funding for their proposal for some technical studies. The next step will be writing a proposal to BC Hydro for installing a fish ladder for their internal process to consider a fish passage.
- Mr. Flintoft (BCWF): their AGM is May 4<sup>th</sup> in Nelson and the theme is Conservation through Collaboration. He also spoke about the number of individuals that sit on the Sustainable Forest Management Public Advisory Group that are also part of the OWSC and the connection between the two groups on various issues (wetlands, source water protection).
- Ms. Clark (RDNO): water supply bulletin for Feb – May is out. Snowpack looks good and they are at normal for reservoir storage. They have a number of planning sessions and actions for 2017.
- Mr. Day (BCFGA): pass
- Mr. Littley (OBWB): the zebra and quagga mussels' letter has been sent to the federal government along with the letter to the provincial government sent back in Jan/Feb. Things seem to be pointing in a good direction with the Ministry of Fish and Oceans looking at "options for action" (positive step). They have heard back from the Minister of Environment which indicates they will provide a more detailed response once they have reviewed the information with staff. Alberta has already started bringing boats into BC.
- Mr. Naka (IIABC): there was an invasive species teleconference outlining the impact on irrigations intakes. They had a Board of Directors meeting and will be having an AGM in Richmond this year. The Certification Board meeting will be held Monday. He spoke of the

benefits that different organizations working together can achieve (i.e., IIABC/OWSC) – the synergies are great.

- Ms. Garcia (OBWB): has two speaking engagements coming up – putting on a joint webinar with Jennifer Miles for the Fraser Basin Council on April 6 and will be talking about the 2015 drought from a regional and local perspective and what both organizations have been doing since (lessons learned and how they have been building on those lessons). She will be presenting at the Water Supply Association’s spring workshop. As part of the Planning Toolkit project, she did a survey and was hoping to do a five minute presentation at the next Council meeting. The project is about looking at the current situation with the toolkits that are out there and seeing how well they are being used which is not good at all based on the survey response. There is a need to develop a better delivery/outreach strategy. The biggest obstacles were lack of time and resources for staff to consider the toolkits and a lack of other outreach once the toolkits are made available. The most popular system for getting access/more widespread use of the toolkits is an online information hub.
- Ms. Bougie (OBWB): it is Canada Water week March 19-25 with March 22 being UN World Water Day. They will be hosting three main events: 1) Panel Event on Waste Water and Conservation; 2) River Blue Screening; and 3) Youth Challenge.
- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): information will be up at okwaterwise.ca regarding Canada Water week. They are working on some tours. The theme is Why Waste Water (UN Theme). They have partnered with RDCO with rain barrel sales. Sales have been capped at 200 and as of today they have already sold 105. Work is underway for the relaunch of the MWW campaign. All of their partners have signed on again this year for the valleywide conservation campaign. Work is also underway getting the DMM campaign going. There is huge interest in getting the message out. She spoke with IH marketing about safe drinking water and source protection and launching some sort of communications and outreach program. She participated in a video about the BCWF Conservation Application that

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has been launched which has currently has 3000 people signed up and using. They have been sending out the letters about Z&Q mussels to the media and to the Chamber of Commerce ensuring that there is greater support out there in terms of pushing the issue to the government.

- Mr. Dobson (APEGBC): complimented the range program for two meetings held last week on watersheds/cattle/source protection. There is a lot of research happening regarding these issues and the meetings provided some interesting information around protecting streams from cattle movement. The MoAg has research programs on how silva pastures are working. He attended a meeting with the wildfire side of Forest Service regarding reducing risks of wildfires in the valley and near watersheds. There is a lot of activity going on that they haven’t seen before. Grant Furness interjected with a comment about the MCRI and how it received peer nominated recognition from UBCM at their last meeting for work on species and ecosystems at risk. This is good work that is being recognized.
- Ms. Warwick-Sears (OBWB): had an opportunity to be interviewed for a CBC podcast series on climate change and what BC will be like in 2050. This should be out in June.
- Mr. Guy (CWRA): pass

**10. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Guy issued a reminder to all members to please sign up for a committee.

**11. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be on Thurs., April 13, 2017 from 12:30 to 4:30 at the Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

**Moved by Zoe Kirk**

***“That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of March 9, 2017 be adjourned.”***

**CARRIED**

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**Chair**

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**Executive Director**