

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

AMDENDED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, May 11, 2017, AT COAST CAPRI HOTEL, KELOWNA, B.C.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch
Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.
BC Agriculture Council
BC Fruit Growers Association
BC Ministry of Agriculture
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
Interior Health Authority
Irrigation Industry Association of BC
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Regional District of North Okanagan
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn

Denise Neilsen (Vice Chair)
Suzan Lapp/Shawn Badasha (alt)
Hans Buchler
Glen Lucas
Andrew Petersen
Doug Flintoft/Lorne Davies
Rob Birtles
Bruce Naka (alt)
Scott Boswell
Danika Dudzik
Renee Clark
Murray Wilson

Regrets

BC Cattlemen's Association
BC Ground Water Association
BC Water Supply Association
Canadian Water Resources Association
City of Kelowna
City of Vernon
Environment and Climate Change Canada – West and North
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (Resource Mgmt)
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Res. Ops. (OSNR)
Okanagan College
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board
Okanagan Nation Alliance
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
UBC Okanagan

Lee Hesketh
Marta Green
Bob Hrasko
Brian Guy (Chair)
Andrew Reeder
Ed Stranks/Rob Miles (alt)
Kendall Woo/Ian Rogalski (alt)
Doug Edwards
Caroline Grover/Tom Dyas/Jeff Robinson
Grant Furness
Robert Warner
Allison MacMillan
David O'Keefe/Howard Newfeld (alt)
Natasha Lukey/Zoe Eyjolfson/Elinor McGrath
Zoe Kirk
Bernie Bauer/Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo (alt)

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

Ecoscope Environmental
Integrated Sustainability
Kelowna Capital News
Larratt Aquatic Consulting
OBWB, Chair
OBWB, Hydrology Intern
OCCP
UBC-O
UBC-O
UBC-O
Watt Environmental
Westcoast CED Consulting

Margaret Bakelaar
Mary Botkin
Robert Bonnell
Jason Schleppe
Tanya Cairns
Barry Gerding
Heather Larratt
Tracy Gray
Sabrina Mittag
Valentina Rvigimba
John Janmaat
Marni Turek
Nargiz Rahimova
Mark Watt
Karol Hansma

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Denise Neilsen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed members and guests.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA**

**Moved by Doug Flintoft
Seconded by Bruce Naka**

“That the agenda for the May 11, 2017 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”

CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Nelson Jatel noted that the minutes included an addendum from Mark Watt of Watt Environmental which was sent in after the April 13, 2017 meeting.

**Moved by Doug Flintoft
Seconded by Hans Buchler**

“That the minutes from the April 13, 2017 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved”

CARRIED

4. **BUSINESS ARISING (Okanagan Bio-solids policy review and next steps)**

Mr. Jatel indicated that this agenda item provides a time to review some of the outcomes/issues arising from the previous meeting. The topic of Okanagan Bio-solids generated a lot of discussion since the April 13th meeting and there has been some interest in looking at some type of policy review and next steps on this issue. Nargiz Rahimova put together a policy brief on Bio-solids application and the barriers and opportunities. This brief was handed out to Council members. This review allowed the OBWB to look at the concept of bio-solids in the scope of work for OWSC and the possible scope for other organizations. This information will be passed along to other organizations (BCTFA, Winegrowers) to maybe address as it was deemed to be outside of the scope of the OBWB mandate. The policy committee will take another look at issue and see if there is an opportunity to have an impact in a positive way for Okanagan residents, governance and other stakeholders. Mr. Watt raised a number of questions in his addendum to the May 11, 2017 meeting minutes. Many of these were answered in part through the research by Ms. Rahimova but the big issue remains the Canada GAP certification that is required by a number of retailers and the use of sewage sludge is not permitted for growers

to get Canada Gap certification. Bio-solids fall into sewage sludge no matter what grade or class they are. Mr. Buchler also noted that organic growers, categorically, are not allowed to use bio-solids. The policy brief provided a recommended action to support a 3rd party agriculture organization to develop a communication strategy recommending changes to the Canada GAP Food Safety Manual (see *Policy Brief: Biosolids application – barriers and opportunities*).

5. **BOARD REPORT (Dr. Warwick Sears)**

The OBWB held their meeting on May 2, 2017. Wayne Wilson with the Central Okanagan Land Trust provided the Board with an update on the Mission Creek and Munson Pond restoration projects. Both received funds through the OBWB's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program. Dr. Sears reminded all Council members that the June meeting will be held in conjunction with the OBWB on June 6th in Summerland. It will be an interesting meeting as Renata Claudi, aquatic invasive species specialist, will be speaking on the risk assessments and projects that communities have to do in order to understand what is at stake in the event of an outbreak. Heather Larratt will also be presenting. She has been working with water utilities locally to help them be prepared if there is an outbreak of mussels. Four OBWB Directors are attending the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in Ottawa in June. They will be meeting with the Minister of DFO or a highly placed administrator about preventing zebra and quagga mussels from coming into BC. The Board adopted a statement of values promoting wetland protection and conservation.

6. **OK LARGE LAKE BOATING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS (Scott Boswell, OCCP; Jason Schleppe, Ecoscape Environmental; & Heather Larratt, Larratt Aquatic)**

Mr. Jatel introduced the group of speakers for this section. Scott Boswell (OCCP), Heather Larratt (Larratt Aquatic Consulting) & Jason Schleppe (Ecoscape Environmental Consultants) who looked at the implications of boat traffic density on Okanagan Lakes. OCCP is working in collaboration with RDCO, RDNO, and the Districts of Coldstream and Lake Country and the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS) to investigate the long-term potential threats of boating activity on lake water source protection for the municipal and domestic intakes on Wood Lake and Kalamalka Lake. OBWB granted the funding to look at water quality from a boating perspective. Mr. Schleppe, with Ecoscape, and Ms. Larratt, with Larratt Aquatic, were hired to identify the spatial distribution of boating activity and determine key factors that may increase the risk of contamination

for source water intakes, such as sediment disruption and spills. The resulting information from all the studies and modeling indicates that recreational boat is an issue and should occur in locations that reduce both source water and environmental risk (key commuting corridors should be developed). Other factors that also must be considered are: density of use and where it occurs; the boat propeller, wake and wave safe guards are needed; and, spill safe guards should be developed. Wake board boating is a big concern as it involves not only a speed zone but a wake zone and waves produce more energy coming to shore which dislodges sediment. The report outlines a series of recommendations that the municipalities can act on but it was concluded that recreation power boats do have an effect on the water quality and that impact is increasing not decreasing. The key result is not that boating recreation shouldn't occur just that it needs to be directed to certain areas on the lakes. Noted that the District of Lake Country was considering a by-law which took into consideration intake protection zones and the results of this study but the Council deemed the by-law to be too extreme and it is currently being redrafted. Ms. Clark noted that there will be three meetings held in June (Lake Country, District of Coldstream and RDNO) with regard to the report. They are hoping to be able to take the report and have the two districts work together and come up with by-laws that mirror each other and that are moving in the same direction and with the same end result. There are a number of factors that have to be looked at: air control (boats are not regulated for air quality); private docks versus marinas (not one right answer); systems to regulate the number of boats on any given day to keep capacity where it is safe; systems to limit the speed of the boats; guests to the area; boat launches; social impacts; health impacts. The reality with recreation is that it will become more controlled and more managed with tougher controls.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The **Policy Committee** (Rob Birtles) has had a couple of meetings. They are working on their ToR and a workplan. One of the first things they will be looking at is most likely around bio-solids.

The **Source Protection and Wetland Committee** (Renee Clark) has sent out their workplan to Chair Guy. They broke the group into five task groups (3-4 people in each) that have come up with long term plans. They are having a face-to-face meeting in June.

The **Irrigation Committee** (Bruce Naka) has met a few times and has a meeting scheduled for next week. They feel there is a strong need for an

educational component in order to promote adaptation to climate change irrigation management. Their workplan is coming together.

The **Sustainable Water Strategy Committee** (Kellie Garcia) had an editorial board meeting on May 1st and they looked through the results of the survey. 18 OWSC surveys were completed. The open ended responses were very good. They will be have a meeting the 3rd week of June and will continue to finalize the Table of Contents. In September, they will come to the Council for more feedback.

The **Drought and Flood Committee** (Scott Boswell) has had one meeting so far and is having another on May 29th. They are looking at completing a GAP analysis and refining the workplan accordingly.

The **OK Supply & Demand Study Committee** (Denise Neilsen) had a large meeting on April 18th. They have worked out most of the details regarding a new hydrology study and updates to the Water Demand Model. They are in the process of putting together information for the Hydrology model for some funding applications.

EFN Committee (Doug Edwards) – no report

Communication Committee (Zoe Kirk) – no report

Kellie Garcia walked through the **Guiding Principles for the Sustainable Water Strategy** with the group. This was a quick overview that Ms. Garcia will follow up on with Council members. These principles are the pillars of the Strategy and guide what actions they choose to put into the strategy and how they frame the text. Ms. Garcia is looking for feedback and ideas for updating, modernizing or changing the wording/text for the strategy. Dr. Sears and Ms. Garcia met with Lisa Wilson (ONA) to discuss a process for working with ONA to incorporate the Nation's perspectives into the updated strategy. Ms. Garcia will be gathering new data for text in the strategy and looking at ways to make the principles more impactful.

8. **MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE**

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Mr. Birtles (IHA): they have issued 48 water quality advisories/boil water notifications in the last two weeks. The Province granted \$240,000 to BCWWA to continue with their small water sustainability project.
- Ms. Rahimova (guest): pass
- Mr. Flintoft (BCWF): pass
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): held a series of town hall meetings and the message they received was that wildlife populations are decreasing throughout BC. Need to set some objectives as to what we want to see in BC. Education and awareness is critical.

- Mr. Petersen (MoAg): no outreach, public meetings, education at the moment because of the election. They are also unable to do any policy work at the moment. They have a couple of projects on the go. 1) A water use efficiency knowledge transfer for grapes is being done through the Climate Action Group. 2) A Farm Water Management plan is also being done through the Climate Action Group. They are heavy into emergency management for flooding. They are having their first drought meeting Monday morning. He has done about 20 well license application workshops with good success with the producers that have come out. Those coming out are keen and happy to get some help. There have been a number of irrigation efficiency talks and they have been largely attended. The environmental farm program is up and running. There is money available but it goes quick as there is big demand (noted that the funding ran out in one day).
- Mr. Lucas (BCFGA): pass
- Ms. Larratt (guest): pass
- Ms. Dudzik (RDCO): taking over from Ms. Bakelaar.
- Ms. Bakelaar (guest): introduced Ms. Dudzik indicating she has a wealth of land use and development knowledge and will be the new representative for RDCO. Dr. Lael Parrott is working with Ecosystem Services and they have finalized a project to map ecosystem services.
- Ms. Turek (guest): working on the development of an extension program at UBCO. Hoping to have more updates over the next couple of months. She is involved in two of the OWSC committees.
- Ms. Clark (RDNO): lots of flooding. Greater Vernon is on a boil water notice.
- Ms. Lapp (BCAPEG): flooding issues. The latest Mission Creek forecast is projected to be 113 m³ which is down from 140 which it was at yesterday. They built a temporary berm along Bellevue Creek which should contain any possible flooding. The channel wasn't able to hold a 1/200 year event. She noted that it has been interesting to see how humans impact the natural environment.
- Mr. Naka (IIABC): interesting to see the different things that happen in times like this, i.e., areas where the water is coming up through like storm drains.
- Ms. Botkin (guest): pass
- Mr. Bonnell (guest): pass
- Ms. Mittag (OBWB intern): pass
- Ms. Cairns (guest): pass
- Ms. Garcia (OBWB): working on the vineyard water use efficiency project and the farm water planning toolkit. The Agricultural Water Supply Update project with Greater Vernon and the City of Penticton is going for pilot soon.
- Mr. Boswell (OCCP): a press release on the foreshore inventory and mapping project will be put out on Monday. They are also working on the Indicators project and have narrowed it down to 39 indicators up and down the valley that the Regional Districts will be able to monitor over time. The project is now called the State of the Basin and the report is due out in a few days. He will send Mr. Jatel a link when it comes out.
- Mr. Littley (OBWB): four OBWB Directors will be attending the FCM and meeting with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada or Senior level staff from that Ministry. They have three recommendations that they are putting forth to the Minister regarding zebra and quagga mussels. 1) the Minister needs to allocate targeted funding to match Provincial spending toward improved invasive mussel education, containment and prevention regimes for Summer 2017. 2) the Minister needs to meet with CBA as soon as possible to enhance the protection of federally controlled lands, waterways and ports of entry (border crossings) by developing a joint workplan and actions to ensure enforcement of the aquatic invasive species regulations by both DFO Fisheries officers and CBSA agents through the use of mandatory watercraft inspections. 3) the Minister is to appoint senior department staff to participate in the PNWER Invasive Species Working Group to coordinate Federal, Provincial and International efforts to stop the spread of invasive mussels.
- Mr. Janmaat (guest): a new hire at UBCO along with Lael Parrott and some others are looking at putting forward a Bachelor of Sustainability to the Provincial government. He is wondering if the possible new structure of the government will provide an opportunity to put pressure for data collection and transparency for evidence based policy. This is a possible opportunity that OBWB/OWSC may need to look at pursuing.
- Mr. Buchler (BCAC): pass
- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): the past week has been crazy. They were ready to launch MWW but have postponed the launch due to the flooding issues. They do have bookmarks that she will be distributing that have tips and information about the MWW contest. DMM is moving ahead and will be ready to launch some ads for the May long weekend. The information session held last month by OASSIS & RDOS featuring Stephanie

Hestor and Cindy Sawchuck was very interesting. Montana is willing to go to bat for the Okanagan and BC and push the mussel issue at the federal level for more action. OCCP are working on a school curriculum. This will be tested at a ProD day on May 19th. She will be attending with OCCP. There will be a larger roll out next school year.

- Mr. Schleppe (guest): interesting to note that he was recently driving through Alberta and noticed that there was signage at the majority of the major weigh stations on Hwy 1 about mussels and inspecting boats (mandatory pull out for mussel inspection). Once he crossed back into BC, he didn't see any signs. (Noted that signage in BC was supposed to start April 1).
- Ms. Neilsen (AAFG): started two new projects looking at the environmental services provided in agricultural ecosystems. They are focusing on how irrigation and type of irrigation management affects soil health and biodiversity. They will be contrasting that with the effects of different irrigation practices around water requirements for withdrawals. One is through Agriculture Canada in Summerland and the other is an Agriculture Green House gas project.
- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): there will not be a webinar for the State of Water in the Okanagan this year. There will be an integrated, western indigenous component to the Okanagan Wetlands Strategy which should be released in September. They have just finished a groundwater/surface water interaction project with ECCC funding. They have finalized the EFN project with ONA Fisheries.

Mr. Jatel extended a thank you to Margaret Bakelaar for her contributions to environmental issues throughout the Okanagan. He also acknowledged that Grant Furness (FLNRO) is retiring in June. Mr. Furness extended the Council members his best wishes. He has enjoyed his time on the OWSC.

9. CHAIR REPORT

They are happy with the way the committees are working. There are a few Council members not yet assigned to a committee (s) and it was noted that Nelson will be following up with those members over the next little while.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be a joint OBWB/OWSC meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 from 12:00 to 3:00 in Summerland.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Moved by Rob Birtles

"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of May 11, 2017 be adjourned."

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director