

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, November 9, 2017, AT COAST CAPRI HOTEL, KELOWNA, B.C.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch	Denise Neilsen (Vice Chair)
Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.	Shawn Badasha (alt)
BC Agriculture Council	Hans Buchler
BC Water Supply Association	Bob Hrasko
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8	Doug Flintoft
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8	Lorne Davies
Canadian Water Resources Association	Brian Guy (Chair)
City of Kelowna	Rod MacLean
Interior Health Authority	Rob Birtles
Irrigation Industry Association of BC	Bruce Naka
Irrigation Industry Association of BC	Ted van der Gulik
Min of Forests, Lands, Nat. Res. Ops. & Rural Devt (Resource Mgmt)	Amy Nixon
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program	Scott Boswell/Tannis Gieselman
Regional District of Central Okanagan	Danika Dudzik
Regional District of North Okanagan	Renee Clark
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen	Zoe Kirk
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn	Murray Wilson
UBC Okanagan	Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo (alt)

Regrets

Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.	Don Dobson/Susan Lapp
BC Cattlemen's Association	Lee Hesketh/Linda Allison
BC Fruit Growers Association	Glen Lucas/Richard MacDonald/Kevin Day
BC Ground Water Association	Marta Green
BC Ministry of Agriculture	Andrew Petersen
City of Vernon	Ed Stranks/Rob Miles (alt)
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Doug Edwards
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce	Tom Dyas/Jeff Robinson
Okanagan College	Allison MacMillan
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board	David O'Keefe/Howard Newfeld (alt)
Min of Forests, Lands, Nat. Res. Ops. & Rural Devt (OK Shuswap)	Robert Warner

STAFF

OBWB, Executive Director	Anna Warwick Sears
OBWB, Water Stewardship Director	Nelson Jatel
OBWB, Communications Director	Corinne Jackson
OBWB, Operations and Grants Manager	James Littley

GUESTS

Black Press/Kelowna Capital News	Glenn Sinclair
City of Kelowna	Barry Gerding
UBC-O	Ed Hoppe
UBC-O	Marni Turek
UBC-O	John Janmaat
Westcoast CED Consulting	Nargiz Rahimova
	Karol Hansma

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Brian Guy called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. by welcoming members and guests and acknowledging that we are in the unceded territory of the Sy'ilx people, the original inhabitants of the Okanagan.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA**

**Moved by Scott Boswell
Seconded by Lorne Davies**

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

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo
Seconded by Doug Flintoft**

“That the minutes from the Oct 12, 2017 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.” CARRIED

4. **BUSINESS ARISING (from previous meeting):**

Mr. Guy put forward a motion to include an appropriate acknowledgement to the First Nations' people at the start of the OWSC meetings as discussed at the Oct 12th meeting. He proposed that this be done routinely. Zoe Kirk seconded the motion and the floor was open for discussion. The discussion included trying to understand what the acknowledgement actually means or what its purpose is. Part of the understanding is to raise the profile or level of awareness in a movement towards reconciliation. The acknowledgement is intended to raise awareness. There is no actionable item included as it is considered a statement of principle. The statement is also an acknowledgement that whatever we are doing on the land has implications beyond ourselves. This type of statement is becoming a very standard practice across Canada. It is a statement of respect. There was also a comment about why wouldn't we then acknowledge Canada under the same principles of respect. What was also acknowledged was that we know we are in Canada; however, we generally do not know which First Nation's territory we are meeting in. This statement is a great tool to raise the level of awareness. Acknowledging that we are in the unceded Territory doesn't make reference to Rights and Title; it is about how groups are participating as part of the reconciliation process. It is being used by other agencies like school districts, Interior Health, OBWB, etc. The group was reminded that the motion is about coming up with an appropriated acknowledgement that is made in the most sensitive and appropriate way. RDOS uses the following statement: We acknowledge we are gathered on the unceded traditional territory of the Sy'ilx people. The original

motion does not speak to what the acknowledgment will actually state only that it be appropriate. The motion was amended to the following:

The OWSC supports that the Council meetings be opened with an appropriate acknowledgement of the historical relationship to the land by the First Nations' people of the area. Moved by Brian Guy and seconded by Doug Flintoft.

This motion is about stating that this acknowledgement will become standard practice of the Council when opening their meetings.

Further discussion focused around whether the indigenous people have been consulted around the area. RDOS has representatives from each of the band's around the area (except one) that have been consulted on this issue. Also, it is a very standard practice across Canada.

The question was called for those in favour of the amended motion. No Council members were opposed. One Council member abstained from voting. The motion was carried.

The new standing nominating committee of Council that was created out of the Ad Hoc Committee will be meeting on January 12, 2018 to help Nelson formulate recommendations to OBWB for the next term of the Council. There is a need to get this process moving along as a result of the upcoming elections which are being held in October 2018.

Therefore, the Council's meeting schedule will have to be adjusted accordingly and Chair Guy is recommending that there be a January 2018 OWSC meeting to ensure the business of this term of Council is attended to appropriately.

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

The Board met on November 7. Their budget has been passed for the next year. The Board has had to tweak their meeting schedule as a result of changes in the Municipal Election this fall. As a result, the budget approval meetings will be held in September and October to have it finalized before the Election. The Joint OBWB/OWSC meeting, normally held in June, will be in held in May, and the OBWB AGM will be held in August. Every four years, there is a review of the water management program and it must be re-endorsed by the Regional Districts. This involves a comprehensive review of the program.

There was a screening of The River film at the meeting and this film will be shown at the Council meeting in December. OBWB will have copies of the film available for distribution. They are looking at ways to organize more screenings and getting the film out to different groups in the area.

OBWB has been helping with floodplain mapping grants and there are about \$1.275 million in grant applications pending. OWBW is participating in the

Thompson Okanagan Tourism Organization Biosphere certification on their steering committee. OBWB will be working with them to ensure that water aspects are front and centre.

Corinne was nominated for a Kelowna Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Award for the DMM program. The Toolkits and Guides project is moving forward and they will be up on Civic Info BC. There is a beta version of the database search engine. There was a very productive meeting of the mainstem lakes drought triggers project.

6. OKANAGAN INVASIVE MUSSELS (James Littley, OBWB)

Mr. Littley provided an update on the efforts and leadership role of OBWB with invasive mussels and ensuring that Provincial and Federal governments are on doing their part in keeping invasive mussels out. It is important to note that each female mussel can produce up to 1 million offspring each reproductive cycle which can be up to six times per year in the warmer lakes (i.e., Lake Mead). There are economic (infrastructure) costs, not just ecological, associated with an infestation. He showed a slide which captures the spread of mussels through North America. In 2012, they jumped the continental divide and headed west. The continental divide should have been a geographical barrier but it's the mussels travelling by boat that is causing them to spread faster and further. Mussels can't be eradicated. Power plants that have been contaminated have to duplicate their cooling systems in order to shut down one side and clean out the other side. \$250 million is spent per year in the Great Lakes alone to clean out water intakes in industrial systems.

It was announced in March 2017 that the number of permanent inspection stations in BC would be increased from 8 to 11. However, although it is mandatory for boats passing the stations when they are open to stop and be inspected if they are closed there is no requirement to wait and report for inspection when it is open. A mussel sniffing dog has been added to the system as well as increased water sampling, an increased number of inspection officers and \$3 million has been added to the budget. But, it is still not illegal to bring a boat into BC and launch in our waters without an inspection. OBWB has prepared and sent a call for action for the Province that focuses on the prevention of mussels to BC as well as the need to be prepared should invasive mussels reach BC's waters. These action items were sent to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services on October 20th asking the government to fully fund the items. The action items have also been submitted directly to the Minister as per his request at the UBCM meetings. They are waiting for the government's response. OASSIS is

sampling regularly in the Okanagan, and there is regular sampling of the Kootenay Lakes and the Shuswap system and so far there haven't been any positive samples reported. It was noted by a Council member that OBWB is the only funder for an organization like OASSIS to do outreach.

SUMMERLAND RESEARCH STATION (Denise Neilsen, AAFC)

Ms. Neilsen provided information some of the work that the research station is doing that has implications for water issues in the Okanagan and water supply and demand. Her presentation focused on the change in crop suitability that they are seeing with climate change. They are seeing horticulture crops moving into regions that they haven't been before and into regions that typically haven't needed the water supply they now require. This area is at the northern boundary for many temperate fruit crops, i.e. wine grapes, sweet cherries, peaches, due to the climatology of the region. Land use is already changing as can be seen with the expansion of wine grapes and sweet cherries. Sweet cherries have been used as a model crop for this presentation because they have an early bloom, are moderately hardy, and have a short growth season. *The relatively mild climate in southern BC allows the production of high-value tender fruit crops (tree fruits, grapes, berries) that cannot be grown in most regions of the country. The Centre is in an ecologically sensitive location and surrounded by urban development. The unique setting and limited water supply inspires researchers at the Centre to focus on sustainable crop production practices to help preserve and enhance the resilience of such sensitive environments within and across Canada. The Research Station is where 80 per cent of the world's cherries originate. They develop geo-referenced models to assess and predict climate change's effects on: water supply and demand; greenhouse gas emissions; soil carbon sequestration; soil biodiversity; pest distribution and ecology; and crop distribution with consideration of their vulnerability to environmental risks (for example, winter injury).*

GRIZZLY RECREATION & TRAILS BC SITE (Renee Clark, NORD)

Source protection is part of Ms. Clark's work with NORD and in the last 20 years she has completed two source assessments. Her presentation focused on their experience in the Duteau Community Watershed. RDNO has a water storage license and create a dam in the area. Because it is considered vacant crown land, RDNO does not have a lot of power over what happens on the land/reservoir. Over the years, the area has become more popular for recreation but has been operating without proper sanitary facilities or designated camping areas. This has resulted

undesirable impacts on water quality and the environment. NORD expressed their concerns to the Province and specifically Recreation Sites and Trails BC and a plan was developed to put in a recreation site allowing for more control over the area. Designated camping sites were created, and pit toilets, picnic tables and fire pits were installed. A rec site would allow for conservation officers to patrol the area. Among other regulations, the discharging of firearms was no longer allowed. As well, off-limit areas have been fenced in and educational signage installed. In May 2016, the rec site was established. An ORV area, including a mud pit and jumps, has also been created in order to draw people away from the dam. People that have been using the site are impressed and appreciative of the work that has been done at the Grizzly Recreation Site. The data that has been collected by the camp hosts was just received and is currently being reviewed.

OCCP, LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANNING/ FIM/ BOAT ZONING (Scott Boswell, OCCP)

The OCCP is a partnership of 38 organizations including Municipalities, Regional Districts, environmental NGOs, senior levels of government, and key stakeholders. They have a statement of cooperation that states that they value the environment of the Okanagan and it is a shared responsibility and they want to work together to preserve it. Their purpose is to facilitate, communicate and educate. There are three underlying goals in their strategic plan which focus on collaboration, support outreach and education, and ensure that decision makers and citizens have all the information they need to protect and restore ecosystem. They are guided by a steering committee which provides input on all of the activity they do. OCCP reaches out to their partners for face to face meetings to find out their priorities. They rank which projects they will work on throughout the year and form partnerships to work together to implement the projects. One of the projects, a wildlife corridor throughout the valley, aims at preserving ecosystems in their current state. OCCP develops a newsletter each month focusing on the partnerships projects and activities. Over the last year, they have worked on 16 major projects.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The *Decision Support Committee* (Doug Edwards) – Chair Guy reported on behalf of Mr. Edwards. This committee began as the EFN Committee and was changed to the Water Allocation and is now the Decision Support Committee. The mandate of the committee is to facilitate the Council to develop a process through which WSC can provide support to the province on a variety of water-related issues on decision-making landscape. The specific

scope of the committee for this term is incorporating EFNs into the water allocation process. They met in the morning and had their ToR revised. Committee will come up with a document that more accurately describes the specific scope of work that they are hoping to accomplish this term.

The *Communication Committee* (Zoe Kirk) was reported on by Corinne Jackson. They met in the morning and brainstormed ways to bridge OWSC with academia (UBCO and OC). On November 14th, there is a community forum organized by UBCO with the VP of Research and OBWB called A One Water Approach to the Urban Water Cycle. In the future, there will be more of these community water forums to create an opportunity for two way dialogue to inform university research on things that are relative. At their morning meeting, they did some brainstorming on ways to begin that effort. They are also working on an attendance survey and reaching out to groups with representation on the Council that haven't been attending on a regular basis to see why and what can be done to improve attendance. Committee is working on an exit survey for presenters to ensure that presenters' needs are met and allow the Council to archive presentations and provide those to members or the public if they want to follow up. They are working on a checklist to make it easier to organize speakers.

The *Policy Committee* (Rob Birtles) has three requests that have come in from other committees and they are expecting to have one more. The requests include: an information sheet on ground water licensing, review the previous source protection policy that was forwarded to the Board, and review the concept of UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples). The projects will be written up and sent out to committee members and they will produce some documentation for the Council to review.

The *Source Protection and Wetland Committee* (Renee Clark) – no report.

The *Drought & Flood Committee* (Scott Boswell) – no report.

The *Irrigation Committee* (Bruce Naka) – no report.

The *OK Supply & Demand Study Committee* (Denise Neilsen) – no report.

The *Sustainable Water Strategy Committee* (Kellie Garcia) – no report.

8. MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE

Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Mr. Littley (OBWB): WCQI Grants call for applications is being released tomorrow and February 16, 2018 is the deadline for submissions.

The application has been simplified and a scoring criteria has been included.

- Ms. Rahimova (guest): pass
- Mr. van der Gulik (IIABC): the Blue Ecology workshop (the interweaving of First Nations and western science) takes place on Nov 28th.
- Mr. MacLean (City of Kelowna): the city utility will be starting to replace water meters (4 year process) to a full radio frequency collection system. Next year will be a pilot year.
- Mr. Hoppe (guest): pass
- Mr. Naka (IIABC): offering CIT (certified irrigation technician) levels 1, 2, 3 courses at the upcoming seminar. These are courses for people getting involved in irrigation. All three courses are now sold out and there is a wait list for the spring.
- Ms. Dudzik (RDCO): working with OCCP on a few projects. Also, looking at ideas for next year. They are trying to initiate a rebuilding of momentum for developing a shoreline management plan for Okanagan Lake.
- Ms. Gieselmann (OCCP): pass
- Mr. Flintoft (BCWF): pass
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): have initiated a large mule deer study with UBCO and FLNRO. There are three study sites being monitored, including burned and non-burned areas. They are looking at understanding mule deer migration patterns.
- Mr. Boswell (OCCP): they are hoping for approval on the Lakeshore Management Plan next spring and helping District of Lake Country move forward on a shoreline management plan.
- Mr. Janmaat (guest): UBCO is presenting A “One Water” Approach to the Urban Water Cycle on Nov 14th. Dr. Rehan Sadiq presents “Performance Assessment and Benchmarking of Water Infrastructure” including factors, such as climate change, population growth, urbanization and extreme events, such as droughts, water pollution, new regulations and aging infrastructure being the main drivers compelling water utilities to manage their assets and services differently. Mr. Janmaat has sent in grant application to the federal government asking for funds to examine whether drinking water quality impacts value of properties supplied by small water systems.
- Mr. Hrasko (BCWSA): annual meeting was held two weeks ago. There were about 120 delegates in total. He has been working with Kellie Garcia on the drought triggers and sustainable water strategy.
- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): they are gathering information on groups interested in holding screenings of The River film or interested in the DVDs. Inquires can be sent to Corinne. She attended the WaterSmart Innovations Conference in

Nevada which is the world’s largest conservation conference. They offer seminars on outreach/education/marketing as well as drought management, codes and policy rates. Presentations can be found at www.watersmartinnovations.com. The Zebra Quagga information letter has been sent out to the professional organizations suggested by the Council. In some cases she has been asked to rewrite the letter as an article or story to go into organizations’ newsletters or magazines. The Building Sustainable Communities Conference (Nov 21-24) theme is innovation through collaboration but a big component of the conference is water stewardship. OBWB is a sponsor of the conference. OBWB has intern working with them over the summer helping with outreach and education. Her contract ended but they have been invited to reapply for funding to hire another intern next year.

- Ms. Nixon (FLNRO): they still have 1.5 FTEs working on flood recovery. With the help of OBWB and OCCP, they expect a full house for their wetland workshop on Nov 20th.
- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): has been working on the BC Water Use Reporting Centre tool which is a web based means for water utilities and license holders to report their annual water use. The tool has been revamped; it has been improved and is now being tested. He is also working with a team from Associated Engineering on developing an Okanagan Constructed Wetland Guidebook.
- Mr. Birtles (IHA): last year they embarked on a peer to peer education process for small water suppliers but large water suppliers have taken advantage of it as well. They provided a course on emergency response planning. They are going to continue developing courses as part of an outreach program. The next course offered will be on water system monitoring. In 2018, they will be rolling out a workshop and workbook on source water protection planning for small water suppliers. They hope to launch an organization called Centre for Operational Excellence in the spring. This is a way for small water suppliers to communicate with each other, gather information and have facilitated discussions.
- Mr. Guy (CWRA): CWRA annual National conference is the last week of May 2018. OBWB is encouraging local governments and research organizations to look at the call for abstracts coming out and submit an abstract as there will be a full day specifically on Okanagan work, research, issues, etc.

9. **CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Guy addressed the implications arising for the OWSC from the change in the upcoming municipal

elections time which will be held in October and not November 2018. As per Dr. Sears' report, OBWB would like to pass their annual budget and program review before the elections. This has implications for Board and Council activities. The following changes will occur:

- 1) there will be a meeting in January;
- 2) the nominating committee will meet in January;
- 3) Nelson will make recommendations for Council membership to the Board in February;
- 4) the seven committee were scheduled to report out to the Council in March and April, this will now happen in March (earlier if they are ready);
- 5) at the April meeting, a new term of Council will be created and the election for a new Chair and Vice Chair will take place, instead of the May meeting;
- 6) the Joint meeting between OBWB and OWSC will be held at the May meeting;
- 7) the first meeting of the new Council will be held in June where a planning session will be held;
- 8) OBWB's AGM will be held in August and the Council will meet as well to review the update to the Sustainable Water Strategy presented by Kellie Garcia. This will allow time for the Board to receive the Strategy at

their September meeting.

Nelson commented on the upcoming nominating committee meeting asking Council to reflect on organizations they feel would enrich and contribute to Council and to let him know of any recommendations or thoughts they may have.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be Thur., Dec. 14, 2017 from 12:30 to 4:30 at the Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna. Climate change will be the main topic for the meeting. The Director, Francis Zwiers, of Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium will be presenting. There will be a screening of The River film. Chair Guy will be presenting on national perspectives on climate change initiatives. Scott Smith from the Summerland Research Station will be presenting as well. After the meeting, there will be a Christmas reception. The location is being determined.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

Moved by Lorne Davies

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

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director