

# OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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

## MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, December 14, 2017, AT COAST CAPRI HOTEL, KELOWNA, B.C.

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### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

#### Present

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch  
Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.  
BC Agriculture Council  
BC Ground Water Association  
BC Ministry of Agriculture  
BC Water Supply Association  
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8  
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8  
Canadian Water Resources Association  
City of Kelowna  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Interior Health Authority  
Irrigation Industry Association of BC  
Irrigation Industry Association of BC  
Min of Forests, Lands, Nat. Res. Ops. & Rural Devt (Fish/Wildlife)  
Min of Forests, Lands, Nat. Res. Ops. & Rural Devt (Resource Mgmt)  
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program  
Okanagan Nation Alliance  
Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Regional District of North Okanagan  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen  
UBC Okanagan

Tom Forge  
Shawn Badasha (alt)  
Hans Buchler  
Marta Green  
Andrew Petersen  
Patti Meager  
Doug Flintoft  
Lorne Davies  
Brian Guy (Chair)  
Rod MacLean  
Doug Edwards  
Rob Birtles  
Bruce Naka  
Ted van der Gulik  
Lora Nield  
Robert Warner  
Scott Boswell  
Natasha Lukey  
Danika Dudzik  
Renee Clark/ Jennifer Miles  
Zoe Kirk/ Evelyn Riechert  
Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo (alt)

#### Regrets

BC Cattlemen's Association  
BC Fruit Growers Association  
City of Vernon  
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce  
Okanagan College  
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board  
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn

Lee Hesketh/Linda Allison  
Glen Lucas/Richard MacDonald/Kevin Day  
Ed Stranks/Rob Miles (alt)  
Tom Dyas/Jeff Robinson  
Allison MacMillan  
David O'Keefe/Howard Newfeld (alt)  
Murray Wilson

### STAFF

OBWB, Water Stewardship Director  
OBWB, Communications Director  
OBWB, Operations and Grants Manager

Nelson Jatel  
Corinne Jackson  
James Littley

### GUESTS

Associated Engineering  
ECCC  
Larratt Consulting  
OBWB Board  
PCIC  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
Urban Systems  
Westcoast CED Consulting

Daniel Lamhonwah  
Judie Steeves  
Natasha Neumann  
Scott Smith  
Drew Lejbak  
Doug Lundquist  
Heather Larratt  
Rick Fairbairn  
Francis Zwiers  
Craig Nichol  
Marnie Turek  
Nargiz Rahimova  
Glen Zachary  
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 meeting in the unceded territory of the Sy'ilx people, the original inhabitants of the Okanagan.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA**

Request to add item 4.2 Motion from the Policy Committee to the agenda.

**Moved by Andrew Petersen  
Seconded by Rob Birtles**

***"That the agenda for the Dec 14, 2017 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended." All in favor.***

**CARRIED**

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Doug Flintoft  
Seconded by Doug Edwards**

***"That the minutes from the Nov 9, 2017 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved." All in favor.***

**CARRIED**

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

**4.1** The new standing nominating committee of Council that was created out of the Ad Hoc Committee will be meeting on January 11, 2018 to help Nelson formulate recommendations to OBWB for the next term of the Council. Nelson invited Council members and guests to share their recommendations with him. A number of members/guests have already submitted some recommendations.

**4.2** Rob Birtles forwarded a motion from the Policy Committee to Council Chair requesting that Council members engage in conversations providing input into the development of agriculture water policy. Doug Flintoft seconded the motion. The floor was open for discussion on this matter. Chair Guy commented on the reasoning behind the motion. There is a need for more dialogue. There is a need for better understanding from the agricultural members/groups. There is a role for agricultural groups to engage with their members and part of the motion is for the Chair to communicate and write to some of these groups to ensure that there is some level of engagement happening. As well, the motion will help to increase the discussion around what the Council should be targeting in an Okanagan water policy that relates to agricultural water. The Irrigation Committee is looking into ways for securing water for agriculture and they have asked the Policy Committee for help. The request being put forward is asking for the Council to direct the Chair (give the Chair some authorization) to

make a formal request to seek input from the right organizations to formulate recommendations to the Board. Based on the discussion around the table it was felt that the motion and input and involvement would help move the agricultural water policy agenda in the right direction. The question was called and all were in favour. The motion was carried.

5. **BOARD REPORT (Nelson Jatel)**

The Board met on December 5<sup>th</sup>. The Board received an update on the 2017 invasive mussel outreach by OASISS. The South Okanagan Wetlands project is moving ahead. They are currently working on a project to develop a guidebook for constructed wetlands. The Board Directors are following up on the letter sent to the government regarding invasive mussels and voted to send another letter to the federal government. Flood plain mapping is in the works. They are working with RDNO, RDCO, RDOS and City of Kelowna to help coordinate floodplain mapping grant applications. LiDAR remote-sensing mapping will be part of this. OBWB participated in Destination BC's 10-year Okanagan Tourism strategy by providing input on the implications and importance of ensuring appropriate protection of riparian areas, waters sources, and water quality.

6. **CLIMATE CHANGE: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE: GLOBAL TO LOCAL (Francis Zwiers, PCIC)**

Dr. Francis Zwiers is director of the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) at the University of Victoria. His former roles include chief of the Canadian Centre for Climate Modelling and Analysis and director of the Climate Research Division, both at Environment and Climate Change Canada. As a research scientist, his expertise is in the application of statistical methods to the analysis of observed and simulated climate variability and change. Dr. Zwiers discussed the history and future related to climate change and different scales of change.

**CLIMATE CHANGE: HISTORY AND MODELS: IMPLICATIONS ON AG (Scott Smith, AAFC)**

Mr. Smith worked at the Summerland Research Centre for many years. He is now retired and is doing consulting work. He spoke about climate change in agriculture in a Canadian context with a specific focus on the Okanagan. In terms of agriculture, both long term climate trends and the extreme and erratic weather increase the risk to food production both globally and regionally. As a result, many of the places in the world that have produced food in the past may not produce in the future and having a secure food supply will mean keeping all options open which means having a secure land base and a secure source of water.

**CLIMATE CHANGE: CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY AND LEADERSHIP (Brian Guy, CWRA)**

Chair Guy was to talk about how climate change effects professionals and organizations and the response that Associated Engineering is taking to address the climate change issue head on. However, in light of the time, Chair Guy opted to postpone his presentation with the plan to find an opportunity in the New Year to present to the Council.

**7. A RIVER FILM**

A documentary film that tells of the balance between competing needs on the Okanagan River. The message of 'A River Film' is that the water of the Okanagan River is a precious resource that must be managed to balance the needs of competing users. It is a 38-minute film which was debuted in October at the annual public meeting of the International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control in Osoyoos. The film is a partnership between the International Joint Commission, the Department of Ecology in Washington State, and the OBWB. There are copies of the film available for loan by contacting Corinne Jackson.

**8. MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE**

Council members and guests are invited to provide an update on their organization's activities. Due to time constraints, the roundtable was postponed for this meeting.

**9. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Guy expressed his thanks to the members and guests for their hard work and dedication this past year.

There was a reminder that the Holiday reception this year is being held at James Little's place and everyone is invited.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be Thurs., Jan. 11, 2017 from 12:30 to 4:30 at the Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Moved by Natasha Lukey**

***"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of December 14, 2017 be adjourned."***

**CARRIED**

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Chair

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Executive Director