

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board
**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, January 11, 2018, AT
COAST CAPRI HOTEL, KELOWNA, B.C.**

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

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

Denise Neilsen
Suzan Lapp
Shawn Badasha (alt)
Hans Buchler
Andrew Petersen
Patti Meager
Lorne Davies
Brian Guy (Chair)
Rob Birtles
Bruce Naka
Robert Warner
Tanis Gieselman
Natasha Lukey
Renee Clark
Zoe Kirk
Murray Wilson
Bernie Bauer
Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo (alt)

Regrets

BC Cattlemen's Association
BC Fruit Growers Association
BC Ground Water Association
City of Vernon
City of Kelowna
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce
Min of Forests, Lands, Nat. Res. Ops. & Rural Devt (Fish/Wildlife)
Okanagan College
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board
Regional District of Central Okanagan

Lee Hesketh/Linda Allison
Glen Lucas/Richard MacDonald/Kevin Day
Marta Green
Ed Stranks/Rob Miles (alt)
Rod MacLean
Doug Edwards
Tom Dyas/Jeff Robinson
Lora Nield
Allison MacMillan
David O'Keefe/Howard Newfeld (alt)
Danika Dudzik

STAFF

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

Anna Warwick Sears
Nelson Jatel
Corinne Jackson
James Littley

GUESTS

OBWB, Chair
BCWF
OBWB
City of Kelowna
SEKID/OBWB Director
UBC-O
Black Press
Westcoast CED Consulting

Evan Antonijevic
Tracy Gray
Neil Fletcher
Don Gayton
Ed Hoppe
Toby Pike
Marnie Turek
Barry Gerding
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 Update on the Ag Water Reserve Motion from the Policy Committee to the agenda.

**Moved by Rob Birtles
Seconded by Bernie Bauer**

***"That the agenda for the Jan 11, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended." All in favor.
CARRIED***

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Moved by Shawn Badasha
Seconded by**

***"That the minutes from the Dec 14, 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 met in the morning. They spent some time reviewing OWSC attendance records of members and provided membership suggestions to Nelson. He will be presenting the recommendations for the next term of Council memberships to the OBWB at their February meeting.

4.2 At the last meeting, the OWSC supported the Chair approaching the various Ag organizations on Council for their input into an Ag Water Reserve. Not much has happened yet but Nelson and Chair Guy are putting together a letter to seek input.

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

The OBWB did not have a meeting in January. Dr. Sears provided a quick over of the last Board meeting which was on December 5th. The main reminder is that there are some scheduling changes occurring as a result of the change in date of the Municipal elections which are taking place in October instead of November. OBWB/OWSC joint meeting will be held in May (not June). Their Annual Public Meeting will be in August and the budget process will take place at their October meeting. The November meeting has been cancelled and the December meeting will involve the reinstatement of the elected officials. The Board received an update on the 2017 invasive mussel outreach by OASISS and they will be sending another letter to the Federal government asking for greater federal engagement. Dr. Sears is working with the Okanagan Regional Districts and

municipalities to coordinate plans for floodplain mapping. As well, they are hoping to get some LiDAR flights happening before the end of March. They have hired a new Okanagan Water Wise intern through funding from the United Nations Associations of Canada for an. The new intern will be starting in February.

6. **BC WETLAND POLICY – RECOMMENDATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES (Neil Fletcher, BCWF)**

Mr. Fletcher spoke about a proposal BCWF is putting to the BC Government to develop a province-wide wetland policy. Mr. Fletcher is very knowledgeable on the subject of wetlands and has worked on the Okanagan wetland strategy. Wetlands are extremely important for wildlife and species at risk. There are a range of reasons why they are critical and important and it is valuable to note that about 85% have been lost in the Okanagan and the remaining ones on the landscape are often heavily degraded and compromised. The province recently hosted a conference in West Kelowna looking at how to improve local governments responses to the protection of wetlands and Mr. Fletcher presented at this conference. He is also the Chair of the Wetland Stewardship Partnership (WSP) of BC.

WSP was developed in the early 2000 by, largely, provincial level organizations interested in seeing good wetland management on the landscape. Some of the projects they have worked on include: green by-laws toolkit, wetland ways policy document, Wetland Action Plan of BC (which guides a lot of the work that needs to be done to help protect and preserve wetlands). Three years ago, they came up with some new priorities for the group including: advancing a wetland policy in BC, improving the inventory and information knowledge of wetlands, and improving education and awareness of wetlands. *The WSP vision is to work together in an effort to ensure that BC is a province where the functions and values of wetlands and the larger watersheds of which they are a part are appreciated, conserved, restored and appropriately managed for present and future generations.* When compared to other provinces, BC has received a failing grade as to how they are dealing with wetlands. A wetland policy would help as it is hard for local governments to come up with laws that are consistent. Nelson wrapped up Mr. Fletcher's presentation by bringing the group's attention to a Draft Memorandum that he has drawn up with a proposed recommendation to advocate for a wetland policy to the province. He is hoping to hear back from Council members whether or not there is general support for this recommendation. Concern was raised around dam regulations and the implications of a wetland policy

on the requirements of dam owners. The various scenarios not only around dam regulations but other implications are something that would need to be taken into consideration. Another comment focused on the ongoing maintenance of wetlands and the need for the cost of this to be included in some way as well. Nelson suggested that the memo be tabled and have the Policy Committee review it further and have another draft memo reported back to the Council that incorporates the Council feedback on the issue. One of the noted things missed is that there is very little data being collected on wetlands right now. There are important ecosystems but there is no framework in place to really see how they are doing.

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

Chair Guy spoke about how climate change effects professionals and organizations and the corporate response that Associated Engineering is taking to address climate change. Three years ago, they recognized the significance of climate change and the need to be aware of potential implications on the work that they do. There are a variety of forces that are pushing professional organizations/people towards acknowledging, recognizing and taking into account climate change and embedding climate change within the big picture of an organization's day to day activity requires a number of steps that incorporate all parts of an organization; from the top down and bottom up. AE hosted a corporate awareness seminar with a clear message from the top of the organization that climate change needs to be a part of all proposals and projects. They have leadership and support groups. They are developing an education curriculum and have obtained senior management buy-in which is all key to ensuring the success. There are still challenges to be faced, including having an understanding of how climate change can be relevant, developing confidence in discussing the issue with clients, overcoming resistance to change, and ensuring adequate resources are available.

7. COMMITTEE UPDATES

There were no committee updates provided at this meeting.

8. OKANAGAN WATER SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY – WORKING SESSION (Kellie Garcia, OBWB)

The Okanagan Water Sustainability Strategy is a major accomplishment/deliverable for this term of Council. The purpose of this session is to update Council on the progress to date and provide a timeline for completion of the strategy. Ms. Garcia is looking for input on the guiding principles and

the strategy outline. The planned timeline for completion is as follows: Draft SWS 2.0 worked on from Jan to Apr. Council and Board feedback in May. Finalize text and graphics in June/July. Final review by Council in August. Final review by OBWB in September and print and distribution of final report in October.

Some of the key learnings from the survey include: some of the previous actions are no longer relevant; all remaining actions need to be reworded and contextualized; new actions and/or information needed around WSA, climate change, mussels, ecosystem services, and EFN; All survey participants provided a great deal of useful information. The Draft Guiding Principles were reviewed and comments were provided. They have been changed to be more concise and targeted and provide the framework for the strategy but will be tweaked as the writing moves forward. There was a great deal of discussion around the wording of each of the principles and ensuring the tone is appropriate and that the appropriate principles have been captured. The Table of Contents was also reviewed. This is designed to provide a road map for the strategy. The Chapters are the key themes and the sections are the action statements or the most important/useful things that can be done to achieve the overarching theme.

There will be more work completed over the next three months in order to get a full draft together. Ms. Garcia will be calling upon Council members for further contribution and are being asked to respond as promptly as possible when called upon.

9. 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. Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Mr. Littley (OBWB): presented to the Fraser Basin Council operations committee on Z & Q mussels. They want to contribute and partner somehow with OBWB and they unanimously supported OBWB's calls to action. WCQI grant applications are due February 16, 2018.
- Ms. Nielsen (AAFC): will be retiring in a few weeks but will be continuing to be associated with Ag Canada as a research associate.
- Mr. Bauer (UBCO): pass
- Mr. Badasha (APEG): pass
- Mr. Peterson (M. Ag.): the Growing Forward 2 program is ending and they are preparing for a new program. The Ag waste control regulations are under review and available for public

- comment. The livestock watering regulations are getting close to being released for public review and comment.
- Mr. Pike (guest): there is a new Secy/Treasurer for the Water Supply Assn. SEKID has been issued an existing groundwater license.
 - Ms. Meager (BCWSA): pass
 - Mr. Hoppe (guest): partnering with the Regional District with the UBCM grant they received for flood management planning. They are also moving ahead on some projects to do formal assessments to assess their infrastructure resiliency for water intake systems. The City has obtained Provincial health office certification for water quality testing.
 - Ms. Jackson (OBWB): going through the hiring/interviewing process for the Okanagan WaterWise communications outreach coordinator position. They will have an intern working from Feb 15 to Sep 15 and the funding is part of the UN Foundation of Canada's Green Core program. They will be assisting with the preparations for Canada Water Week and World Water Week and all of the outreach. Ms. Jackson is working on the final reports for MWW and DMM. The River Film distribution is underway and they have a number of groups interested in screenings. Z&Q mussel outreach to professional organizations is continuing and has been featured on the front page of the Env OCP magazine.
 - Ms. Gieselman (OCCP): in November, they helped the ecosystem branch of FLNRORD host a wetland workshop. The report has been completed and approved to be distributed. They have been following up on the foreshore inventory mapping recommendations and a number of the noted actions are being started.
 - Ms. Clark (RDNO): working on flood mapping with their protective services and Dr. Sears. RDNO is also looking at fuel reduction in community watersheds and grant funding for that.
 - Mr. Wilson (OFA): working collaboratively with UBCO and TRU as they work towards building relationships with the academic community.
 - Mr. Warner (FLNRORD): A dam safety review for the Okanagan Lake system has been awarded. The last review was in 2008. They have staff working on flood recovery applications. Lora Nield from Ecosystems asked that he remind the group that the Annual Qualified Professionals workshop is Feb 7th in Penticton. There are two Ecosystem positions posted in the Penticton office.
 - Dr. Sears (OBWB): working on flood mapping and LiDAR. The Province will be holding and maintaining the data.
 - Ms. Lapp (APEG): there is a review of the professional reliance model and a survey is being circulated. If you are a professional, please take the time to complete this.
 - Ms. Lukey (ONA): OBWB is largely supporting ONA to do a wetland strategy that Lisa Wilson will be heading.
 - Mr. Naka (IIABC): they are getting requests regarding students joining the IIABC which is encouraging. They are looking at the best way to handle and facilitate this. IIABC met with the City of Kelowna and they had discussions around how they can work together and share information.
 - Ms. Turek (guest): thanked the Council for all of their letters of support for a water research cluster. They were not successful with the grant but will continue to move forward with the concept and follow up with the feedback generated from the support received. She also extended thanks to the Council for helping to get people out for the Water Forum in November. A survey was recently sent out to those who participated and they are looking for feedback.
 - Mr. Davies (BCWF): UBCO is currently working a mule deer study with BCWF.
 - Mr. Fletcher (guest): pass
 - Ms. Restrepo-Tamayo (UBCO): reminder to Council that Valhalla Wilderness Society and BRAES-UBC have two screenings of Primeval: Enter the Incomappleux on January 18.
 - Ms. Kirk (RDOS): report provided by Nelson Jatel on behalf of Ms. Kirk. The Assembly of First Nations Vancouver is hosting a national water symposium and tradeshow Feb 6-8.
 - Mr. Jatel (OBWB): OBWB and CWRA BC Branch are hosting the EFN Conference Oct 17-18 in Kelowna. A sponsorship package has been circulated. They will also be putting a call for papers out in the next 6-8 weeks for participation at the conference. Phase 2 of the EFN project is wrapping up.
 - Mr. Birtles (IHA): IH partnered with Be the Change Group to build an online interactive water map for the IH region. This map is being tested with community members with a focus group being held in Kelowna on Feb 20th. Please contact Mr. Birtles if you would like to be involved.
 - 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.

10. CHAIR REPORT

There are only three months left of this term of Council. Some ambitious objectives and targets were set for this term (update to Sustainable Water Strategy and committee work) and he would like to thank everyone for their time, effort, passion, dedication and contribution.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be Thurs., Feb. 8, 2017 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm. The location is TBD. The topic for discussion is mapping (land use, soils, groundwater, bedrock geology, sensitive habitat, wetlands, etc.) and the status of the mapping in the Okanagan.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Moved by Andrew Peterson

“That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of January 11, 2018 be adjourned.”

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director