

# OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

*A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board*  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, February 8, 2018, AT  
OKANAGAN REGIONAL LIBRARY, 1430 KLO RAOD, KELOWNA, B.C.

---

## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

### Present

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch  
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  
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program  
Regional District of North Okanagan  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen  
UBC Okanagan

Denise Neilsen/Scott Smith  
Hans Buchler  
Andrew Petersen  
Patti Meager  
Lorne Davies  
Brian Guy (Chair)  
Rob Birtles  
Ted van der Gulik  
Scott Boswell/ Tanis Gieselman  
Renee Clark  
Zoe Kirk  
Bernie Bauer

### Regrets

Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.  
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)  
Min of Forests, Lands, Nat. Res. Ops. & Rural Devt (Resource Mgmt)  
Okanagan College  
Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board  
Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn

Don Dobson/Suzan Lapp/Shawn Badasha  
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  
Robert Warner  
Allison MacMillan  
David O'Keefe/Howard Newfeld (alt)  
Danika Dudzik  
Murray Wilson

## STAFF

OBWB, Executive Director  
OBWB, Water Stewardship Director  
OBWB, Communications Director  
OBWB, Operations and Grants Manager  
OBWB, Policy & Planning Specialist

Anna Warwick Sears  
Nelson Jatel  
Corinne Jackson  
James Littley  
Kellie Garcia

## GUESTS

OBWB, Chair  
Okanagan Nation Alliance  
Associate Engineering  
Blue Geosimulation  
Ecoscape  
FLNRORD  
BC Ground Water Association  
Integrated Sustainability  
Integrated Sustainability  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
Westcoast CED Consulting

Julianno Sambatti  
Tracy Gray  
Molly Teather  
Nate Smith  
Devin Cairns  
Jason Schleppe  
Nicole Pyett  
Doug Geller  
Jonathan Fennell  
Tanya Cairns  
Craig Nichol  
Marnie Turek  
Nargiz Rahimova  
Keith Duhaime  
David Scott  
Sarin Raj Pokhrel  
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 4.1 Wetland Policy and 4.2 Ag organizations to Business Arising agenda item.

**Moved by Bernie Bauer**

**Seconded by Zoe Kirk**

***"That the agenda for the Feb 8, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended." All in favor.***

**CARRIED**

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Note that under item 9: Member Updates, need to remove the line indicating there are no member updates.

**Moved by Denise Neilsen**

**Seconded by Renee Clark**

***"That the minutes from the Jan 11, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved." All in favor.***

**CARRIED**

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

4.1 Neil Fletcher presented at the last meeting that BCWF is promoting the idea of a province-wide wetland policy and they are seeking OWSC and OBWB support. The OWSC Policy Committee has been given the task of considering what that might look like and report back to the Council.

4.2 At December's meeting, the OWSC supported the Chair approaching the various Ag organizations on Council for their input into an Ag Water Reserve. Nelson and Chair Guy have drafted a letter ready that will be sent out soon. Council members noted that both Ted van der Gulik and Andrew Peterson should receive a copy of the letter prior to it being sent out so they are prepared for any questions coming from the Ag community.

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

The OBWB met on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The Board re-elected Tracy Gray as chair and Juliette Cunningham as vice-chair for 2018. There were no changes to the Directors.

Things are quickly developing on the floodplain mapping project and a collaborative effort is underway to secure LiDAR imagery. An RFP was put out on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. OBWB will manage the funding and hold the contract but GeoBC will manage the process and hold the data.

Mr. Jatel presented OBWB with the proposed OWSC

membership list for the May 2018-October 2019 term for approval. Mr. Littley presented on milfoil control and the new rototiller that is being built with a completion date of April. There has been a lot of activity regarding invasive mussels with letters being sent to BC and Federal governments pushing for increased efforts around the threat of invasive mussels. A River Film the Award of Excellence from the Impact DOCS Awards Competition. Ms Garcia presented on the CivicInfoBC website (a hub for by-laws toolkits and guides) which is set to launch. She also continues to work on the mainstem drought triggers project and the Sustainable Water Strategy update.

Mr. Bauer extended a thank-you to Chair Gray for her work on the OBWB and congratulated her on her re-election.

6. **NATURAL RESOURCE MAPPING & DATA SOIL MAPPING AND BEDROCK GEOLOGY (Craig Nichol, UBC-O)**

Mr. Nichol is a hydrogeologist and senior instructor at UBCO and a researcher with long history of ground water and hydrogeology work in the Okanagan. Mr. Nichol presented to the Council on the natural resources of the Okanagan and bedrock mapping geology, surficial geology mapping and soils mapping. He provided an overview of basic mapping and mapping terminology and spoke to some of the issues for bedrock geological mapping including the completeness of mapping, mineral occurrences and water chemistry, potential for exploration and mine development and historical mine workings. Mr. Nichol also spoke about issues around unconsolidated geological mapping.

**(Scott Smith, AAFC)**

Mr. Smith is a soil scientist with more than 35 years of experience in soil mapping, soil classification and land evaluation in northern and western Canada. He spoke about what is available in soil mapping, standards for soil mapping, new technology in soil mapping and the gaps that exist including the fact that most data is 25+ years old and does not reflect well the soil conditions on managed landscapes, the limited expertise that is available to support users and update the information, and the declining staffing available to collect soil data. New technology continues to change the way soil maps are mapped.

**GROUNDWATER MAPPING & Data (Nicole Pyett, FLNRORD)**

Ms. Pyett is a hydrogeologist at FLNRORD. She outlined the history of groundwater mapping, its current state, future efforts, related projects and next steps including continued annual aquifer mapping projects, working to improved data quality

and accessibility, and expanding to hydrogeological modeling in selected areas.

### **WETLANDS, FORESHORE AND BIOLOGICAL MAPPING (Jason Schleppe, Ecoscape)**

Mr. Schleppe is a senior natural resource biologist and principal with Ecoscape. He is a leader in the province in the development of Foreshore Inventory and Mapping. He presented to the Council on the status biophysical mapping. He spoke about some of the mapping being done in the Okanagan including the City of Kelowna and their detailed wetland mapping, the Okanagan Basin wetland mapping, Okanagan sensitive habitat mapping, species at risk and the 27 critical habitat maps. He made note of the fact that there has been a definite decrease in “boots on the ground” physical mapping of biological habitat which is concerning. He also noted that while a lot of mapping has been done in the area more mapping is needing to be redone because there has been sufficient cumulative change that has occurred.

### **CLIMATE & WEATHER DATA (Ted van der Gulik)**

Mr. van der Gulik is a “water champion” and passionate about ensuring BC’s water resources are protected for future generations. He spoke to the Council on the state of weather and climate efforts and noted that something needs to be done about collecting weather data in the Okanagan. He presented information on the Climate Related Monitoring Program (which is made up of all those who run climate or weather networks in BC), Farmwest (Weather Station Network for Agriculture), climate data issues and coordinating agricultural data.

## **7. MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE**

Council members and guests are invited to provide an update on their organization’s activities. Council members and guests were invited to provide an update:

- Ms. Garcia (OBWB): focused on writing the Sustainable Water Strategy after the good working session last month. They will have an editorial board meeting in March. Mr. Littley is now part of the in-house writing team. Planning to have the Draft ready for the Joint OBWB-OWSC meeting in May.
- Mr. van der Gulik (IIABC): pass
- Ms. Clark (RDNO): they have a lot of projects ongoing. Their snowpack is looking good.
- Mr. Geller (guest): Ground Water Association AGM is April 4-5, 2018 in Langley.
- Ms. Meager (WSABC): WSA 2018 Annual Spring Workshop will be April 12-13 in Kelowna.
- Dr. Fennell (guest): is with Integrated Sustainability Consultants. He is working on the

Columbia River Treaty renegotiation and looking at the implications of climate change.

- Ms. Gieselman (OCCP): pass
- Mr. Cairns (guest): there is a project in Alberta called the Athabasca River Basin Initiative that might be of interest to the Council.
- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): OBWB puts out a Board Report every month. If you are not on the list and would like to receive a copy please send an email to Mr. Jatel. The MWW and DMM final reports are complete. Ms. Jackson made note of the significant in-kind support both programs receive from media and community partners. The Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce has been in touch with her about mussel outreach efforts. The Shuswap Watershed Council has also been in touch about mussel outreach. They have hired the Okanagan WaterWise Communications and Outreach coordinator who will be starting mid-February.
- Mr. Pokhrel: M.A.Sc student under the supervision of Dr. Rehan Sadiq. Extended a thank you to Ms. Turek for inviting him to attend the meeting and to the OWSC for having him at the meeting and get some information about mapping. He is looking at small water systems.
- Mr. Bauer (UBCO): they are having a workshop on Feb 9<sup>th</sup> reporting out on a three-year project that he and John Janmaat have been working on looking at climate change adaptation in the agricultural field with specific reference to riparian rehabilitation. Mr. Bauer is part of the Wilsey Dam Fish Passage Committee. They have been working through the BC Hydro process for some time now and are now transitioning from Step 4 to Step 5 in their decision framework process. The committee is hoping for a fish ladder to be put in place or to have the dam deconstructed.
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): drew attention to the fact that Summerland just turned down a proposed development for a 400-unit senior’s complex nearby the Summerland Trout Hatchery. The hatchery relies on an underground aquifer and natural springs near the proposed site to supply the hatchery with fresh water and there is concern that the development would jeopardize the water source.
- Mr. Schleppe (guest): pass
- Ms. Tucker (guest): pass
- Mr. Buchler (BCAC): spoke about concerns of the BC Cherry Growers Association & BC Grapegrowers with the takeover of SEKID by City of Kelowna. They have sent a letter to a number of ministries outlining the issues and their recommendations. Council asked that Mr.

Buchler forward this information to Mr. Jatel.

- Mr. Smith (guest): is Hydrotechnical Engineer at Associated Environmental.
- Ms. Pyett (guest): Mike Wei has officially retired. He has been replaced by Amy Sloma. They are training for allocation officers and have a 2-day course coming up on EFN and Hydraulic Connectivity.
- Mr. Peterson (M. Ag.): the Growing Forward 2 program is ending and a new program, Canadian Agricultural Partnership, has been announced. He has been doing a lot of groundwater licensing support work. He will be presenting in Burns Lake at a meeting about agriculture and water. He is available to do similar talks in the Okanagan.
- Ms. Kirk (RDOS): they have been busy with grants for infrastructure upgrades and now have tenders out. They have an RFP out for a wetlands project. They are working on budget changes for the year so the budget can be finalized. They have been reporting out on their water systems and writing grants. Their compost facility proposal has been turned down by the District of Summerland and Marron Valley.
- Mr. Sambatti (guest): data scientist at Tesera Systems, Inc. who does forest inventory using a LiDAR and color infrared combination (HRIS – High Resolution Forest Inventory System).
- Dr. Sears (OBWB): the Sustainable Living Leadership program takes people interested in water sustainability from the Fraser River’s headwaters to the mouth of the Fraser River by canoe, raft, shuttle van and on foot over 25 days. If you would like to put up a poster advertising this opportunity or know a young professional that might be interested in this opportunity, please let Dr. Sears know. They are trying to get more young people to have a greater awareness

of environmental issues, water courses, watersheds, First Nations’ rights, mining, etc.

- Mr. Guy (CWRA): the CWRA Annual National conference is the last week of May 2018. The call for abstract deadline was Feb 5<sup>th</sup>. They received about 20 and there is great representation from the Okanagan. There will also be a full day session on the Columbia River Treaty.
- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): the OBWB approved the membership invite list for the OWSC. Each organization will be receiving a letter in the next few weeks so let Nelson know if there is someone in particular the letter should be addressed to in your organization.

#### **8. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Guy again expressed his thanks to everyone for their attendance. The OWSC committees will be reporting out at the next meeting. The April meeting will be the end of this term of Council and a new Chair and Vice Chair will be elected for the next term of Council.

#### **9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be Thurs., March 8, 2018 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm at the Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

**Moved by Bernie Bauer**

***“That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of February 8, 2018 be adjourned.”***

**CARRIED**

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

---

**Chair**

---

**Executive Director**