

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, March 8, 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.
BC Agriculture Council
BC Cattlemen's Association
BC Ground Water Association
BC Water Supply Association
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
Canadian Water Resources Association
City of Kelowna
Interior Health Authority
Irrigation Industry Association of BC
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Regional District of North Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn
UBC Okanagan

Denise Neilsen/Scott Smith
Shawn Badasha
Hans Buchler
Lee Hesketh
Marta Green
Bob Hraske
Lorne Davies
Brian Guy (Chair)
Rod MacLean
Rob Birtles
Ted van der Gulik/Bruce Naka
Scott Boswell
Renee Clark/Jennifer Miles
Zoe Kirk
Murray Wilson
Bernie Bauer/Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo

Regrets

BC Fruit Growers Association
BC Ministry of Agriculture
City of Vernon
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

Glen Lucas/Richard MacDonald/Kevin Day
Andrew Petersen
Ed Stranks/Rob Miles (alt)
Doug Edwards
Tom Dyas/Jeff Robinson
Lora Nield
Robert Warner
Allison MacMillan
David O'Keefe/Howard Newfeld (alt)
Danika Dudzik

STAFF

OBWB, Communications Director
OBWB, Operations and Grants Manager
OBWB, OkWaterWise Communications & Outreach Coordinator

Corinne Jackson
James Littley
Jocelyn Whalen

GUESTS

BC Cattlemen's Assn
City of Kelowna
Okanagan Nation Alliance
FLNRORD
BC Ground Water Association
UBC-O
UBC-O
UBC-O
UBC-O
Watt Environmental
Westcoast CED Consulting

Keith Manders
Ed Hoppe
Natasha Lukey
Ryan Whitehouse
Doug Geller
Craig Nichol
Marnie Turek
Nargiz Rahimova
John Janmaat
Mark Watt
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 4b) presentation from Craig Nichol to Business Arising agenda item.

**Moved by Denise Neilsen
Seconded by Bernie Bauer**

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

CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Note that the Feb 8, 2018 meeting was held at the Okanagan Regional Library and not the Capri Hotel. Note that Molly's (ONA) last name is Teather. Ms. Jackson asked that the Roundtable notes be looked to make sure they included all members' and guests' present updates. This has been done and concluded that everyone's had been included.

**Moved by Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo
Seconded by Hans Buchler**

"That the minutes from the Feb 8, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved." All in favor.

CARRIED

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

4a) A letter regarding an Ag Water Reserve (s) was drafted and reviewed and has been sent out (BC Ag Council, BC Cattleman' Assn, Fruit Growers Assn) looking for input/advice on pursuing an Ag Water Reserve (s). The requested deadline for comments back to Nelson Jatel is April 11, 2018.

4b) Craig Nichol has been asked by the Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry to appear before a hearing on March 19. The hearing is on climate change impacts on agriculture and forestry. Dr. Nichol requested a few minutes of Council's time to provide some overview on the hearing and to get feedback/input from the Council and see if there is anything Council would like for him to put forward to the Senate. He also noted that there is an opportunity for any organization or individual to submit written evidence. It was felt that it would be worthwhile to have a conference call organized to help influence verbal input and give thought as to whether OWSC would be interested in providing further written input.

5. **BOARD REPORT (Chair Guy)**

Chair Guy presented on behalf of Dr. Sears and Mr. Jatel who are away. The OBWB met on March 6th.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS
COMMUNICATION (Zoe Kirk)**

Dr. Sears is working on a MOU with GeoBC and EMBC to secure funding for LiDAR flights to cover the whole watershed (there is funding in place for some low-level flights). The BC Flood and Fire Review public inquiry, which is being headed by George Abbott and Maureen Chapman, have been meeting across the province and will be at RDCO on March 29th. Dr. Sears is also working on the renewal of the mandate for water management program. There was a summary of the initiatives Mr. Jatel has been working on including the membership renewal for OWSC, EFN, Wetland Strategy, Mission Creek groundwater interaction, hydrometric monitoring, upcoming conferences, and two water supply webinars (April 16 & May 8). Mr. Littley presented on milfoil program and mussel situation. The Province of BC has put out their final report for the 2016 season and interim final report for 2017. Ian Horner, senior milfoil supervisor, is retiring. He has been with OBWB for 33 years. There will be a retirement function on March 28th. Input was received from the Board on potential refinements to the WCQI program. Jocelyn Whalen was introduced as OBWB's new OkWaterWise Communications & Outreach Coordinator for the year. Canada Water Week is March 19-23. There will be an opening ceremony and Krystal Lezard with Westbank First Nation will provide a special welcoming and opening. March 22 is the Syilx Water Forum and involves a tour of the watershed. The Planning Toolkits and Guides project is wrapping up soon and there will be a webinar on March 13. The final reporting on the Agriculture Water Supply status outreach project is wrapping up and the Mainstem Drought Triggers project is nearing completion.

This is a new committee this term and was established to look at ways of improving internal communications between Council members as well as innovative ways to connect more closely with local academic institutions and students. They have established a communications portal which is a safe and direct communications platform. It also allows for an electronic data management system for document accessibility. To date, the committee has improved linkages within OWSC member organizations (this is still ongoing), improved communication platforms within OBWB for OWSC members (still require members to be more educated on the usage), strengthened relationships with academic institutions (this is still ongoing), developed a checklist for internal use, and set recommendations for next term. The recommendations going forward are to continue to work as a committee in Term 8, work closely with

OBWB Communications and OWSC membership, find ways to engage academia, build internal information sharing and archiving, and assist in marketing materials being produced by OBWB.

DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS (Brian Guy)

This committee started as the EFN (too narrow a focus) to the Water Allocation committee and renamed to Decision Support Committee as there was a desire to broaden the mandate and an interest in maintaining a standing committee to provide assistance/decision support to all levels of government. The focus of the committee for this term was to help FLNRORD with a process to consider EFNs in their decision making. The process isn't finished yet but the committee has a solid scope. Their plan is to still develop a draft of a decision tree process to be reviewed by an expanded group to get wider input. Their recommendations are to: complete the decision support process, encourage the province to incorporate the recommendations, decision-tree draft, recommendations for a governance approach, and look for other opportunities to see where Council can be effective in other issues.

SUPPLY & DEMAND UPDATE (Denise Neilsen)

This committee was tasked with looking at a process for updating the 2007-2010 Okanagan Basin Water Supply and Demand Study. They developed a committee of knowledgeable individuals, terms of reference for the WSD study update, and contributed to a funding application to improve the Phase 2 hydrology model. The committee set out some recommendations for further work including the need to secure further funding to complete the full scope of work for the hydrology model upgrade, technical and scientific work that has to be undertaken before model upgrades, and the role of Council in the WSD update project.

IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT (Bruce Naka)

This committee was made up of a diverse group of individuals that provided lots of information from all sides. They developed a list of tasks needed to improve irrigation management and efficiencies in irrigation systems including: the development of a standard bylaw to be promoted across the Okanagan Basin; encouraging the adoption of all IIABC certification programs, creating a standard soil bylaw for landscape, transferring technical information, and securing water for the Ag sector. Some of the next steps noted include identifying and prioritizing items that OBWB can provide influence on and continuing an extending the irrigation management committee into next term. Improving irrigation efficiency and management is not a short-term task and should continually be

included in strategic planning in the Okanagan.

SUSTAINABLE WATER STRATEGY 2.0 (Brian Guy)

Chair Guy presented on behalf of Kellie Garcia. The Sustainable Water Strategy was a major initiative of Council. The committee will be meeting again on the March 12th. They are busy writing up the draft strategy to be presented at the June meeting. The updates are going well and are on track for completion.

DROUGHT/FLOOD PLANNING (Scott Boswell)

The objectives of this committee were: improved communication; a high-level gap analysis for floodplain management; increases in consistency for drought and flood planning; and support for drought planning initiatives. Their tasks included: background research and key stakeholder interviews, identifying priorities for floodplain management, and identifying funding sources. The committee provided assistance in coordinating and developing grant submissions and have helped apply for \$2.7 million in grant funding. To date, \$820,000 has been approved. They are also waiting for news on the LiDAR mapping funding for the whole Okanagan watershed. For next term, they would like to see the committee continue to play a coordinating role to ensure consistency, coordination, and identification of resources.

SOURCE PROTECTION / WETLAND (Renee Clark)

This was a large committee that looked at source protection to meet the OBWB's strategic goal of excellent source water quality (drinkable, swimmable, fishable). The committee broke into five task groups. Group 1 – how is water protected in BC (regulations, decision-making framework, roles and responsibilities, prevention and inspection). Group 2 – review and summarize factors affecting wetland protection and restoration in the Okanagan. Group 3 – gain a better understanding of the current state of source protection and the effective implementation of source water protection plans. Group 4 – exploring how referrals are generated and to whom (water utilities, local government, stakeholders). Group 5 – reviewing source water assessments for surface water sources. They are recommending that there is a need for a greater leadership, both on government (provincial) and local/grassroots level. OBWB is the most logical one to play a coordinating role. For Term 8, the committee is recommending that work of the committee be continued; OBWB consider leading an Okanagan basin watershed management planning process; and establishing a funding model to support ongoing watershed protection initiatives. They are

advocating for the development of a Provincial Wetland Policy; enhanced wetland protection; enhanced education, outreach and collaboration; workshop for local government and water purveyors; mechanism for ongoing funding; coordination of source protection plans; and the need for a lead Ministry.

POLICY (Rob Birtles)

This committee was tasked with looking at opportunities for the Council to influence policy at various levels of government. Many of the requests came to the policy committee from other committees but they also had decided that they would look at any big issues that presented themselves during the term. Some of the requests they considered this term included the following. 1) Source Protection Policy update (currently under review). 2) Letter to Min. Ag regarding consultation on the Animal Waste Control regulation (advocacy letter completed). 3) Groundwater Licensing (reviewed and determined that no further action was needed). 4) UNDRIP (draft information paper is to be completed for the Board). 5) Securing water for Agriculture (this is a big topic that needs to be carried forward). 6) Biosolids (this was considered by the committee and determined that no further action was needed). Some of the next steps include: connecting with the other committees, seeking clarity on requests; and moving forward with requests.

7. MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE

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

- Mr. Littley (OBWB): will be defending his thesis tomorrow afternoon.
- Mr. Buchler (BCAC): recognized that today is International Women's Day. The letter the Cherry Assn and Wine Grape Council sent to the government is generating some discussion. The letter was about the change in how water is being governed. Agriculture is very worried about putting water governance decisions in the political realm. They feel it is much better served by some kind of independent contractor (expert). The Cherry Assn will be doing some follow up.
- Ms. Rahimova (UBCO): pass
- Ms. Neilsen (AAFC): pass
- Mr. van der Gulik (IIABC): pass
- Mr. Waterhouse (FLNRORD): they have secured some extra funding to help the EFN project along.
- Mr. Janmaat (UBCO): attended a meeting looking at water rates in the City of Kelowna. Issues of rights and clarity of rights to water were raised as well as the concern with the evolution of water

management within the political realm.

- Mr. Hoppe (City of Kelowna): as soon as weather is permitting the City will be going ahead with source water protection planning, as well as some creek stability assessments.
- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): RFP has gone out for MWW and DMM campaigns. OBWB has offered matching funds to local government utilities. There has been a good response valley wide to MWW. There is a funding announcement happening tomorrow.
- Mr. Wilson (SOFA): met with BC Wildfire Service last week and their forecast is for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation again this year.
- Ms. Whalen (OBWB): pass
- Mr. Maclean (City of Vernon): they have a lot of projects going on including: source water protection, water rates, storm water panning initiatives. They have a water integration project in the works and proposals have been coming in.
- Mr. Birtles (IHA): pass
- Mr. Boswell (OCCP): EcoAction Environment Canada has an application out called Wetlands. It is a lengthy application but straightforward.
- Mr. Hesketh (BCCA): Ag Waste Regulations, the ranching/farm community is hoping they will move towards using Nutrient Management / Monitoring in the future.
- Mr. Hrasco (WSABC): WSA 2018 Annual Spring Workshop will be April 12-13 in Kelowna.
- Ms. Green (BCGWA): BCGWA AGM is April 4-5 in Langley. There will be an update on licensing from the government.
- Mr. Geller (BCGWA): pass
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): pass
- Ms. Lukey (ONA): upcoming Sylix Water Forum: Connecting to the Land is Mar 22nd.
- Ms. Miles (RDNO): have implemented remote reading water.
- Ms. Clark (RDNO): have completed the Kal Lake Vulnerability mapping. They have a Watershed Assessment Response plan meeting coming up and are moving along with the recommendations from the plan.
- Ms. Kirk (RDCO): inviting the local media who worked with them last year around the floods and the fires to a thank you luncheon to and create dialogue with them regarding emergency services and what is required of local government in the event of an emergency both how local government can respond and what the media would like from them.
- Mr. Guy (CWRA): the CWRA Annual National conference is May 28-Jun 1, 2018 in Victoria.

The EFN Conference is Oct 17-18, 2018. Go to efn2018.ca for more information.

8. CHAIR REPORT

There are a number of upcoming events including: The River Film screening on Mar 21, Syilx Water Forum on Mar 22, and the flood and fire inquiry meeting on Mar 29. The last meeting of this term of Council is Apr 12. At this meeting a new Chair and Vice Chair will be elected. Denise Neilsen has agreed to let her name stand for Chair and Scott Boswell has agreed to let his name stand for Vice Chair. Let Mr. Jatel or Chair Guy know if there are any other nominations for the positions. Nicole Pyett will be presenting at the April meeting on a pilot project with small water purveyors in the South Okanagan. Daniel Lamhonwah, PhD student at Queen's, will be presenting on soils, permafrost and climate change. There will be some planning started for the next term of Council. The Joint OBWB/OWSC meeting will be held Tues, May 1st.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

This is Chair Guy's last meeting at Chair as he will be away in April. He extended his thanks to the Council members and their commitment and contributions to this term of Council. *It has been a pleasure and an honor to lead the Council for this term.*

9. NEXT MEETING

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Moved by Bernie Bauer

"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of March 8, 2018 be adjourned."

CARRIED

Executive Director