

## OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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

### MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018, AT COAST CAPRI HOTEL, KELOWNA, B.C.

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#### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

##### Present

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch

BC Agriculture Council

BC Ground Water Association

BC Ministry of Agriculture

BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8

City of Kelowna

Min of Forests, Lands, Nat. Res. Ops. & Rural Devt (Fish/Wildlife)

Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program

Okanagan College

Regional District of North Okanagan

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

UBC Okanagan

Denise Neilsen/Tom Forge

Hans Buchler

Marta Green

Andrew Petersen

Lorne Davies

Rod MacLean

Lora Nield

Scott Boswell/Tanis Gieselman

Allison MacMillan

Renee Clark

Zoe Kirk

Bernie Bauer

##### Regrets

Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.

BC Cattlemen's Association

BC Fruit Growers Association

BC Water Supply Association

Canadian Water Resources Association

City of Vernon

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Interior Health Authority

Irrigation Industry Association of BC

Kelowna Chamber of Commerce

Min of Forests, Lands, Nat. Res. Ops. & Rural Devt (Resource Mgmt)

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

Bob Hrasko/Patti Meager

Brian Guy (Chair)

Ed Stranks/Rob Miles (alt)

Doug Edwards

Rob Birtles

Ted van der Gulik/Bruce Naka

Tom Dyas/Jeff Robinson

Robert Warner

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

OBWB, OkWaterWise Communications & Outreach Coordinator

Anna Warwick Sears

Nelson Jatel

Corinne Jackson

James Littley

Kellie Garcia

Jocelyn Whalen

#### GUESTS

Associated Environmental

Orchardist

Orchardist

FLNRORD

OBWB, Chair

Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association

UBC-O

UBC-O

UBC-O

UBC-O

Westcoast CED Consulting

Glenn Sinclair

Drew Layback

Adrian Arts

Lorraine Bennest

Nicole Pyett

Tracy Gray

Glenn Mandziuk

Craig Nichol

Marnie Turek

Nargiz Rahimova

John Janmaat

Karol Hansma

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Water Stewardship Director, Nelson Jatel 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'ix people, the original inhabitants of the Okanagan. Chair Guy sends his regrets that he was unable to attend today's meeting.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA**

Moved by Bernie Bauer  
Seconded by Zoe Kirk

*"That the agenda for the Apr 12, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended." All in favor.*

**CARRIED**

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Note that the minutes sent out did not include a couple of revisions. The page break on page 4 had been removed and there was a correction on page 2 at the top of column 2. The sentence: *Dr. Sears is working with the MOE* should read *Dr. Sears is working on an MOU with GeoBC and EMBC.*

Moved by Bernie Bauer  
Seconded by Zoe Kirk

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

**CARRIED**

4. **ELECTION: CHAIR & VICE CHAIR:**

Mr. Jatel noted that Dr. Denise Neilsen has been nominated for the position of Chair and has agreed to let her name stand. There were three more calls for nominations for the position of Chair. With no further nominations coming from the floor, the nominations were closed and Dr. Neilsen was acclaimed the new Chair for the new 18-month term of Council. Mr. Jatel noted that Scott Boswell has been nominated for the position of Vice Chair and has agreed to let his name stand. There were three more calls for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. With no further nominations coming from the floor, the nominations were closed and Mr. Boswell was acclaimed the new Vice Chair for the new 18-month term of Council.

5. **WELCOME NEW EXECUTIVE**

Congratulations was extended to both Council members on their appointment. Mr. Jatel turned the meeting over to Chair Neilsen.

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

6a) Posters were created from the committee presentations at the March 2018 meeting. These are a work in progress and will be presented at the

May meeting with any changes or amendments. Chair Neilsen invited the Council members to take some time to review the information presented in the posters and were given an opportunity to record any changes, errors or omissions directly onto the poster. Council took some time to review and comment on the posters.

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

The Board meeting was held April 3, 2018. OBWB has secured funds from Emergency Management BC for the LiDAR project. A Blue Green Algae decision protocol has been revised. MoH was looking for feedback and Dr. Sears had Heather Larratt review the document. It can be found on the OBWB website. OBWB received funding through Agriculture Canada for a new intern to help with the water demand model. This person has now been hired. OBWB awarded the WCQI grants. OBWB hosted a fantastic Canada Water Week and UN World Water day event.

8. **JOINT COMPLIANCE PROJECTS FOR GROUNDWATER PROTECTION (Nicole Pyett, FLNRORD)**

Ms. Pyett is a Regional Hydrologist for the Province. Her position is with Groundwater Science. They work on science related projects to help with legislation and policy development for Victoria and offer advice for major projects. They also do a lot of work on protection of public safety and environmental protection. She spoke about the general provincial approach to groundwater compliance and enforcement issues and referred to some case study examples from last year.

They recently conducted a targeted pilot program aimed at assessing the state of compliance in well construction and maintenance. Staff undertook site visits to make sure people properly understand the legislation in protecting the aquifers and groundwater resources. The project was known as the joint groundwater compliance project and was developed with the intention to enhance groundwater protection in rural areas by coordinating a multi-agency groundwater compliance project focused on small water systems. Focusing on small water systems would enable FLNRORD to yield greater public environmental benefit. Also, there is a common understanding that there are often issues with these systems and it provided an opportunity to talk to the people and make sure they know about the changes and what is required by those who operate the system. The locations selected were known to have a higher density of issues and included: Princeton, Rock Creek, Castlegar, Nelson and two on the island. They conducted a series of inspections and inspected all of the different water

systems over a 4-day period. Some were found in excellent condition and others were not. What was notable was that almost all of the small water system operators were not aware of the upcoming licensing requirements so the project also provided an opportunity for FLNRORD to talk to them about their rights and responsibilities with their small water systems.

Mr. Jatel asked Ms. Pyett to comment on the groundwater mapping project in Kelowna. She indicated that there is a growing need to understand issues at a deeper level and the Province is moving from 2D mapping into 3D which uses the information in the wells database and integrates it to draw 3D maps. The project has been through a first level of internal review and is now going out to a larger group of reviewers. Ms. Pyett welcomes any comments or questions on the product deliverables.

#### **9. COUNCIL INTRODUCTION (Nelson Jatel)**

Mr. Jatel spoke about the upcoming 18-month term of Council and the roles and responsibilities of OWSC. He noted that the OWSC serves as the technical advisory committee to the OBWB. The OWSC has a workplan document that they use for the term which reports on the last Council's objects and outlines the goals and objectives for the next 18-month term. The focus of June's OWSC meeting will be the workplan and setting out the priorities for the next term. Kellie Garcia, OBWB, will facilitate the planning session. Nargiz Rahimova will help write the planning document. Mr. Jatel restated that attendance at Council meetings is a large part of what makes this Council work. He also spoke about a new tradition that Brian Guy began as Council Chair last term whereby there is leadership meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> week which is chaired by the OWSC Chair and attended by the committee chairs. It is an hour long. They have found it to be a valuable tool, along with the website portal, to support clear communication for the Council.

#### **10. MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE**

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

- Ms. Rahimova (UBCO): pass
- Ms. Whalen (OBWB): successful Canada Water Week and UN Water day. There are a number of events in April and May including: Kelowna Seedy Saturday, Garden Works, Peachland Seedy Sunday, Backyard Composter and Rainbarrel sales, Paddle Trail grand opening celebration. MWW campaign starting up. DMM campaign will be starting up soon.
- Dr. Sears (OBWB): attended the Water Supply

Assn meeting and noted that the BC Auditor is calling for a general province wide audit on drinking water systems. She noted that it might be good to have a letter from the Source Protection committee to send to the auditor. Dr. Sears will coordinate with Ms. Clark on this.

- Mr. Buchler (BCAC): has been experiencing flooding in his area this last few weeks and there is huge flooding in the valley. He has never seen so much water. He noted that the infrastructure is not designed to handle the water.
- Ms. Green (BCGWA): BCGWA AGM was April 4-5. It was well attended. There was a licensing update provided at the conference.
- Mr. MacLean (City of Kelowna): they have a variety of activities being completed throughout the City as a result of the 2017 flooding. They are looking at water flows and water measurement throughout Mill Creek and Mission Creek areas. There is groundwater and sluffing being reported all over the place. The pond levels are as high as ever. The Auditor General has just completed a complete audit of the City Water Utility.
- Mr. Janmaat (UBCO): pass.
- Mr. Petersen (MAG): their fiscal year has come to an end along with the Growing Forward 2 funding program. They now have sign off on the Canadian Agricultural Partnership and the bilateral agreement. He is still involved in a series of well registration workshops and trying to get producers to license their wells. He has received approval to attend the North American Drought Monitor Forum in Calgary at the beginning of May. There has been an MOU signed with FNs in the Nicola on the governance of water.
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): their AGM is in Kamloops on the weekend. The big issues they are concerned with at the moment are: steelhead on the Thompson River possibly becoming extinct; and locally there is concern with flooding and the impact on fry emergence. There is a Wetlands: Map your Marshes workshop on May 6 and a Kids Camp in Winfield this summer. Check the BCWF website for more information.
- Ms. Nield (FLNRORD): they have a number of files coming in right now in response to the flooding. A lot of them are around fixing issues that occurred during the 2017 flooding plus there is active flooding now causing issues.
- Ms. Turek (guest): exploring creating a forest industry university network and engaging in dialogue around practices. This involves connecting science and extension with policy-making.
- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): George Abbott spoke on the 2017 flood fire report. That report should be

- public relatively soon. On April 16<sup>th</sup> from 11am-12, is the first of two webinars on current water supply in the Okanagan. The EFN conference is Oct 17, 2018 see EFN2018.ca for more information. They are finalizing the speakers list.
- Ms. Neilsen (AAFC): pass
  - Ms. Bennest (guest): very interesting meeting. She used to attend the OWSC meetings.
  - Mr. Forge (AAFC): it is a time of transition at AAFC. There have been a number of retirements, and new scientists coming in. A lot of their research programs are in limbo at the moment as they wait to hear when funding will flow from MAg with the turnover of Growing Forward 2 to the new funding program.
  - Ms. Jackson (OBWB): rain barrel sale will be on Earth day - Apr 26. They have partnered with RDCO again. MWW had their first meeting Apr 4<sup>th</sup>. Last month there was a news release that OBWB received \$392,500 from the Federal Gas Tax - BC Strategic Priorities Fund to complete a major update of the Okanagan water supply study. The LiDAR news conference was well attended by the media. The Board report has been sent out to OWSC members. Please let Corinne know if you have not received it.
  - Mr. Nichol (guest): on March 19<sup>th</sup> he testified to the Senate of Canada subcommittee. He consulted with the Council on three topics: 1) commitment to renewed climate monitoring network; 2) groundwater and potential of groundwater as storage; 3) carbon pricing. The final report will be out in June.
  - Ms. Pyett (FLNRORD): speaking to groundwater science part of FLNRORD. They are hosting provincial observation well operators for training. Some of their staff are contributing to the Agriculture Waste Control regulation that is coming out. Most of their group is involved in the flood response team and will also be receiving proactive fire response training.
  - Ms. Garcia (OBWB): the Planning Guides project finished up in March and are available on an easily accessible online hub. They partnered with Civic Info BC on this project. They had a webinar to launch the online hub. She made a presentation at the WS Assn meeting updating the water suppliers on the projects she is working on.
  - Mr. Boswell (OCCP): Outreach with lakeshore landowners to protect them from flooding is happening. They are working with UBC on the Interactive Kokanee display (view from the Kokanee) talking about the effects of lakeshore development along the lake. Last Friday, rural area directors of the North Okanagan voted for a North Okanagan Conservation fund.
  - Ms. Kirk (RDCO): in anticipation of another crazy year, they invited the regional media to an event at RDOS to thank them for their work in 2017 and to prepare them for the upcoming year. There was a PowerPoint presentation on the rules of MOE, FLNRORD, local government and how they can declare a state of emergency and how RDOS works as an emergency operations centre. RDOS is moving ahead on infrastructure changes and the things happening for their water systems.
  - Mr. Bauer (UBCO): they are working on a presentation for the CWRA conference in May which will give more insight into the broader activities around water and UBCO. They are finishing up a project on Alderson Creek out by Armstrong which looks at the efficacy of riparian restoration as a climate change adaptation strategy on agriculture landscapes.
  - Mr. Littley (OBWB): \$300,000 has been awarded through the WCQI grants. He is working on a WCQI grant program review which is part of the larger water management review. A survey of the program has been sent out. He is looking for feedback on the efficacy of the program, the impact of the program, and gauging the usefulness of the program. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey.
  - Ms. Clark (RDNO): they have been monitoring their water supply but not seeing any flooding as of yet. Noted that the snowpack is only one part of the flooding equation. It is the rain on snow that seems to tip the bucket and they started seeing some of the major things start happening. She attended a wildfire workshop about how wildfire affects water utilities. She spoke with the Okanagan Regional Goose Management Committee (would like them to come and speak to Council) and how effective the program is in the Okanagan from a water quality perspective. BC Water & Waste Water Assn is having their annual conference and trade show in Penticton May 13-15, 2018.
  - Mr. Mandziuk (TOTA): Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association is the official representative for Destination BC, the Crown Corp. for tourism in BC. Tourism is the #1 economic producing sector in this region. In 2012, TOTA took a forward-thinking approach to develop a Regional Destination Development Strategy. They have focused a lot on partnerships and it has culminated in their biggest achievement. With help from Dr. Sears and Mr. Boswell, the Thompson Okanagan is the first destination in the Americas to earn the Biosphere Destination certification. Only 20 destinations globally have earned the certification. The certification

recognizes the quality, environmental sustainability and social responsibility of the region as a tourism destination.

**11. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Neilsen reflected on climate change in the Okanagan and some of the first projections reports to come out around 1999 in comparison to where we are today and what is happening now. The Syilx Water Forum was well attended and a very interesting event which took place on World Water Day. A small amount of funding has been received for the Water Supply and demand update which will allow the committee to get started with the update but they will need to work on getting more funds.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Chair

**12. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be Thurs., June 14, 2018 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm at the Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Moved by Andrew Petersen**

***“That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of April 12, 2018 be adjourned.”***

**CARRIED**

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Executive Director