

# OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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

## MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018, 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 Water Supply Association  
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8  
Canadian Water Resources Association  
City of Kelowna  
Emerita  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Irrigation Industry Association of BC  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Ministry of FLNRORD (Resource Mgmt)  
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program  
Regional District of North Okanagan  
Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen  
Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Assoc.  
UBC Okanagan

Kirsten Hannam  
Mike Nolan  
Hans Buchler  
Marta Green  
Bob Hraske  
Lorne Davies  
Brian Guy  
Rod MacLean  
Denise Neilsen, Chair  
Russel White  
Doug Edwards  
Ted van der Gulik/Bruce Naka  
Andrew Petersen  
Robert Warner  
Scott Boswell/Tanis Gieselmann  
Renee Clark  
Danika Dudzik  
Zoe Kirk  
Ellen Walker-Matthews  
Bernie Bauer

#### Regrets

BC Cattlemen's Association  
BC Fruit Growers Association  
City of Vernon  
Interior Health Authority  
Min of Forests, Lands, Nat. Res. Ops. & Rural Devt (Fish/Wildlife)  
Okanagan College  
Okanagan Indian Band  
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn

Lee Hesketh/Keith Manders  
Kevin Day/Glen Lucas  
Ed Stranks  
Rob Birtles/Judi Ekkert  
Lora Nield  
Allison MacMillan/Rob St. Onge  
Tim Isaac/Dan Wilson  
Murray Wilson

### STAFF

OBWB, Water Stewardship Director  
OBWB, Communications Director  
OBWB, Operations and Grants Manager  
OBWB, Policy & Planning Specialist  
OBWB, OkWaterWise Communications & Outreach Coordinator

Nelson Jatel  
Corinne Jackson  
James Littley  
Kellie Garcia  
Jocelyn Whalen

### GUESTS

Orchardist  
UBC-O  
UBC-O  
Westcoast CED Consulting

Scott Lucas  
Adrian Arts  
Craig Nichol  
Nargiz Rahimova  
Karol Hansma

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Denise Neilsen 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**

Moved by Bernie Bauer  
Seconded by Hans Buchler

*"That the agenda for the June 14, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended." All in favor.*  
**CARRIED**

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Doug Edwards  
Seconded by Andrew Petersen

*"That the minutes from the April 12, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved." All in favor.*  
**CARRIED**

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

The meeting minutes of the Joint Board/Council meeting held on May 1, 2018 were reviewed. Two changes were noted. Nelson Jatel will amend the Joint Board/Council meeting minutes.

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

Dr. Warwick Sears is at a Real Estate Foundation meeting and sends her regrets. Mr. Jatel presented the Board Report on her behalf. The Board meeting was held June 5, 2018 at the Summerland Ornamental Gardens. Mike Sokel, Environmental Impact Biologist with the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change presented on the Okanagan Large Lakes Water Quality Monitoring Program. The OBWB will be sending a letter to B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources asking that municipalities be consulted before mining permits are approved in community watersheds. The letter is in response to concerns raised by the Districts of Peachland and Summerland about potential impacts on drinking water after the province approved mining exploration in the Peachland Creek and Trout Creek Community Watersheds. This meeting was the inaugural meeting for OWSC Chair Denise Neilsen. She was impressed by the Board members' appetite for knowledge and information coming from the Council. The Board approved the WMP Review. Staff will present the report to the three Okanagan regional district boards over the next few weeks. The Board's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

6. **PLANNING SESSION: Review Survey Results and Identify WSC Term 8 Priorities, Committees & Meeting Content (facilitated by Kellie Garcia, OBWB)**

Ms. Garcia reviewed the results of the recent survey sent out to Council members and guests. The survey was aimed at getting opinions of Council members on Council performance, relevance, and insights on improvements. There were 26 respondents of which 12 were Council members, 6 were Council member alternates and 8 were guests to Council. There was a general consensus that Council functioned well and that the best value of Council is the communication and coordination between communities. One of the comments indicated that Council needs to make sure that the hard work of the committees of the term prior needs to be turned into actions. When Ms. Garcia opened the floor up for discussion, one Council member expressed their disappointment with the low number of respondents with only 12 primary members taking the time to provide input. He appealed to the group to make sure to take the time at the end of this term to participate.

Ms. Garcia spoke about the Term 8 priorities and content of the upcoming meetings reminding Council of the need to ensure Council priorities line up with the OBWB goals. The Council was broken up into small groups to discuss the themes/topics they would like to see in Term 8 as well as put forth ideas for potential speakers. The five small groups spent time having some group discussion. There were interesting and diverse conversations that occurred at each of the tables and there were lots of suggestions and topics for the Term 8 meetings.

Ms. Garcia also spoke about the committees of Council and how they are established to explore issues and priorities of Council in greater detail. The committees meet as needed and report to Council monthly. However, every two weeks, the Committee Chairs meet with Nelson Jatel and WSC Chair. All Council members are required to be on a committee. The groundwork done by the committees translates into action. The committees being looked at for the upcoming term 8 are: Communications, Source Protection, Drought & Flood Planning, Irrigation Management, Policy, and Okanagan Reservoirs. The established committees will meet and incorporate their participants ideas in order to come up with a workplan for the Term.

7. **COMMUNICATIONS (Corinne Jackson, OBWB)**

Ms. Jackson provided an overview of the protocol around communications as a reminder to OWSC of their accountability. The protocol around communication was updated last year with the

reintroduction of the committees. Council was reminded that the Chair of the Council and Council staff will speak to the public on the Council's behalf but the Board Chair may designate another member of Council to act as spokesperson. Individual Council members may not communicate with the public on behalf of Council. Media releases, web-postings, etc. must be approved in advance by staff or the Board Chair. Appendix III of the OBWB Governance Manual contains the Terms of Reference for the Water Stewardship Council. Section 9 discusses the communications between the Council and Board.

## 8. **MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE**

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

- Mr. Guy (CWRA): the CWRA National Conference was a success. The EFN Conference is in October (EFN2018.ca).
- Ms. Hannam (AAFC): she has just recently joined Agriculture Canada.
- Mr. Nichol (guest): pass
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): there is a new conservation officer for the Okanagan. Some of the issues BCWF are watching include: concerns with flooding, impacts of wildfires on fish, and boat launches.
- Mr. Lucas (guest): pass
- Mr. Bauer (UBCO): Marnie Turek continues working towards a water cluster at UBCO. They have lots of field work with students going on at the moment. He is part of the Wilsey Dam Fish Passage committee and they had a presentation to Fish and Wildlife recently. There is an Open House tentatively scheduled for July 5.
- Mr. Edwards (DFO): Ocean Protection Plan dealing with ship traffic in marine areas. Coastal Restoration Fund – some applications have come from the Okanagan.
- Mr. Boswell (OCCP): working with RDCO (Danika) on an 8-page pamphlet regarding the natural environment and preserving it, the wildlife and biodiversity. Copies will be made available for Council.
- Ms. Green (BCGWA): flowing artesian working group (FAWS). There is a transitional period for existing wells but the focus is on new groundwater use applications and the need for a license before using the water. March 1, 2019 will be the end of the transitional period.
- Mr. van der Gulik (IIABC): pass
- Ms. Rahimova (UBCO): pass
- Mr. Buchler (BCAC): water is subsiding in his area but still above normal. Would be interesting to have a debrief on how well the different groups have reacted to this situation. Feels like there is a lot of expertise in lake population that hasn't been accessed.
- Ms. Dudzik (RDCO): working with OCCP to get brochure finalized. It will be available at Front Counter BC.
- Mr. Petersen (MAG): he recently attended the North American Drought Monitoring meeting in Calgary. MAG had their first provincial drought call. There is concern about where things are going this year if we continue without rain. CAP funding is beginning to flow. The transitional well licensing period is coming to an end. After March 1, 2019, if you haven't officially applied for a license you will not be able to use your well even if you have been using it for years. Licensing fees will begin after March 1, 2019.
- Mr. Littley (OBWB): has been working on access issues to Wood Lake as a result of the new Pelmewash Parkway. Needing to look at revamping the boat launch to have access for milfoil control. The Province has allocated budget for funding on an ongoing basis to inspection stations for Z&Q mussels. OBWB has been looking at the WCQI program funding and the allocation of funds on a regional basis. OBWB passed a resolution to Regional Districts to make the WCQI a valley-wide program – One valley – One water, and the best projects every year for the entire valley will be selected.
- Mr. Arts (guest): pass
- Mr. MacLean (City of Kelowna): EOC starting to come to an end. The Kelowna area big flood didn't happen but there were a few anomalies noted. They are working on flood models for Mill Creek and some smaller risk assessments. July 1 will be the start of the Phase 1 water integration project – System Separation. They are working on a series of Agriculture allocation policies. They have a new Director of Corporate and Strategic Affairs.
- Ms. Gieselman (OCCP): pass
- Ms. Kirk (RDCO): Twin Lakes pumping noted that in some areas the water is going down but in others it is going up. EOC still open. They have 27 major events in the area. EAFs requests given for long term mitigative works.
- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): MWW has launched. Again this year, there was flooding happening at the same time as the planned launch of a conservation campaign. This year they recognized the need for conservation even as there was flooding and they continued ahead with the MWW launch as many residents are already working in their gardens and turning on their irrigation. DMM has been launched as well. They are working with the Province on the

inspection stations and funding OASSIS to extend the DMM reach. The Province is also doing outreach. Ms. Whalen has been in the classrooms talking about being water wise.

- Mr. Naka (IIABC): finding that people/organizations want to install correct irrigation. They are becoming more conscientious and informed.
- Ms. Walker-Matthews (TOTA): they have received sustainable certification from BioSphere and have received the Sustainable Destination in the World award.
- Mr. White (ECCC): the change in weather with a significant ridge building. They have seasonal climate outlook bulletin, WEBex, seasonal forecast and possible impacts available.
- Ms. Clark (RDNO): in the midst of report writing. Water quality at lake intakes was affected by flooding this year. Not sure why yet but looking at the draw down of the lakes and then the massive inflows of water.
- Mr. Nolan (APEG): professional development activities. Their annual Conference will be Oct 18-19 in Vancouver.
- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): Okanagan Hydraulic Groundwater model – 2D modelling and how to develop and design models for use and uptake. The EFN conference is coming together nicely. There is an indigenous agenda. The 4 food Chiefs have been integrated into the conference.
- Ms. Neilsen (AAFC): pass

#### **9. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Neilsen thanked everyone for coming out to the planning session indicating that there are a lot of good ideas that came out of the meeting. She noted that some of the themes that come at the end of last term need to translate into action, including: 1) providing new toolkits and bylaws; 2) having proactive impacts into senior government policy making; and, 3) having projects that spin off the work of the committees (i.e., water supply & demand update committee, new hydrology project). Looking at ways to coordinate activities across the basin. She reminded the Council that participation in the meetings and on committees is necessary to continue the good work of Council. She requested members to sign up for committees before leaving the meeting as committee planning will be starting shortly for work in September. Ms. Neilsen is hosting a summer BBQ on July 3. More details are to follow.

#### **10. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be Thurs., September 13, 2018 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm at the Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna.

#### **11. 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 June 14, 2018 be adjourned.”***

**CARRIED**

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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**Chair**

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**Executive Director**