

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2018, AT COAST CAPRI HOTEL, KELOWNA, B.C.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

Assoc. of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of B.C.
BC Agriculture Council
BC Cattlemen's Association
BC Fruit Growers Association
BC Ground Water Association
BC Water Supply Association
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
Canadian Water Resources Association
City of Kelowna
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Interior Health Authority
Irrigation Industry Association of BC
Ministry of Agriculture
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Okanagan College
Regional District of North Okanagan
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
UBC Okanagan

Shawn Badasha
Hans Buchler
Lee Hesketh/Keith Manders
Glen Lucas
Marta Green
Bob Hraske
Lorne Davies
Brian Guy
Rod MacLean
Doug Edwards
Rob Birtles
Ted van der Gulik/Bruce Naka
Andrew Petersen
Scott Boswell
Rob St. Onge
Jennifer Miles
Danika Dudzik
Zoe Kirk
Craig Nichol

Regrets

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch
City of Vernon
Emerita
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Ministry of FLNRORD (Resource Mgmt)
Min of Forests, Lands, Nat. Res. Ops. & Rural Devt (Fish/Wildlife)
Okanagan Indian Band
Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Assoc.
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn

Tom Forge / Kirsten Hannam
Ed Stranks
Denise Neilsen, Chair
Russel White
Robert Warner
Lora Nield
Tim Isaac/Dan Wilson
Ellen Walker-Matthews
Murray Wilson

STAFF

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

Nelson Jatel
Corinne Jackson
James Littley
Kellie Garcia

GUESTS

Orchardist
Freshwater Alliance
Golder Associates
Associated Environmental
Associated Environmental
UBC-O
UBC-O

Scott Lucas
Adrian Arts
Christine Mettler
Mackenzie Scherer
Ward van Proosdij
Jeremy Fyke
Carolina Restrepo Tamayo
Nargiz Rahimova

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Scott Boswell 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.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA**

*"That the agenda for the September 13, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended." All in favor.
CARRIED*

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Brian Guy
Seconded by Doug Edwards

*"That the minutes from the June 14, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved." All in favor.
CARRIED*

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

Sustainable Water Strategy – drafted 80%; timeline amended for first draft being presented to WSC for a feedback; additional external review in early 2019; to be submitted to the Board in April 2019.

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

Board has approved the annual agenda for the next 2019 fiscal year with all our water management programs funded. New Board members will be elected following October elections. Strategic planning will take place in spring 2019.

6. **"Water sustainability and the city", presented by Christine Mettler, Canadian Freshwater Alliance**

Lead author on report – Evergreen Vancouver worked with local governments on watershed sustainability issues. One of the key questions that emerged during the number of forums was 'how can the new Water Sustainability Act help local governments respond to urban watershed challenges. The majority of respondents were from municipalities and regional districts. Environmental issues specific to urban watersheds were identified along with their causes, current management tools, barriers for implementation, and recommendations and feedback. Collaboration, coordination, political will, education and greater commitment by provincial government were found critical to improving urban watershed management. Christine will provide Nelson with the link to the report for distribution to WSC.

7. **'LiDAR and aerial image acquisition for the Okanagan valley watershed' by Dr. Anna Warwick Sears, OBWB**

The OBWB and regional districts worked earlier to get funds from federal government and UBCM to complete floodplain mapping. In January we made arrangements with Emergency Management BC, whereas they provided us with the large amount of funding for GeoBC (FLNRO) to manage the LiDAR portion of the project. Project had 3 phases: flying over the lakeshore, floodplain areas, and upper watershed (incl. LiDAR and aerial photography). These data is intended for floodplain mapping and any other potential uses by local governments. Conditions in summer were rather poor for collecting aerial data with smoke or clouds obscuring the view. Project is about 80% complete with the LiDAR and about 5% complete with aerial photos. Equipment was lost due to tragic plane crash but the data is recoverable and new equipment ordered. We are confident we will get all data before the snowfall. Data processing has been prioritized so all habituated areas are processed first and made available to local governments by the end of December to start the flood mapping. Meeting with regional district was help to do the RFP for doing the hydrology of mainstem lakes system. Together with LiDAR data this will be components for the hydraulic modeling. OBWB is a coordinator of the project. Eventually data will be open for everyone but current MOU states that local governments, improvement districts, OBWB, Indian bands can access the data. Researchers should put a request through Geo BC or team up with local governments. UBC-O new faculty member – Dr. Matthew Bourbonnais – GIS specialist and has an interest to establish a spatial lab and working with local governments.

8. **WORK PLAN 2018-2019**

Draft Work Plan was circulated – past and current Chairs provided their input, comments and suggestions from WSC are welcomed. Plan was developed using feedback collected during the planning session held in June. We continue to maintain the balance between what we talk about and the action that we are actually taking. Few organizations need to confirm their membership. Updated Appendix on new Board members will be provided. Those who haven't signed up onto committees encouraged to sign up. List of committees so far will be distributed; members can maintain communication with the chairs. Chairs usually show up at WSC meetings, except Bernie Bauer who won't be able to attend in this term. Leadership group made up of committee chairs meet every two weeks to

discuss the progress and shape the content of our monthly meetings.

Mr. Jatel also reminded that EFN Conference will be held on October 17-18 and requested members to pass the information to their organizations and beyond.

9. **MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE**

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

- Mr. Scott Smith: no update other than lots of agri people are interested in LiDAR data and access to it;
- Dr. Warwick Sears (OBWB): making sure everything is signed before the Board is re-appointed: found resources to extend intern's Stephanie Walker contract for the entire 2019 – she will continue working on supply and demand and data sharing;
- Mr. Ted van der Gulik (IIABC): funding from the province available to continue water demand project in the Province and put a user-friendly model demand model online. Working with Denise Nielsen and Ron Fretwell on that. It will help with watershed management. Province also requested to improve the ag water calculator to include groundwater, and develop monthly values to support part-seasonal licensing.
- Mr. Lucas: difficult to engage growers in well registration. Columbia River Treaty–being negotiated, funding obtained to do a study on irrigation in the US and the Okanagan (Bruce Naka did the work: will ask if report can be released publicly. Orchardists concerned about spontaneous tree dying which appears to be from climate change impacts (wet springs and hot summer) – study into climate info and how it stresses trees needed.
- Ms. Rahimova (UBC): pass
- Ms. Miles (RDNO): submitted grant application for 33 mln to Canada/BC partnership for green infra – to fund Kalamalka Lake infrastructure; survey – impact from boil water advisory is high on commercial users; senior homes, childcare facilities and schools experienced impact too; interested in FESBC on wildfire management but need more info on their requirements. Remote water metering program works well. Managing problematic camp sites under trails BC program yields positive outcomes through education efforts.
- Ms Garcia (OBWB): works on SWS. Drought response project – sitting on the regional Thompson–Okanagan drought team; communication between province, water suppliers and OBWB was much better this year. Mainstem lakes drought triggers program in progress – will start piloting soon and applying

next year. Ag communication project with DRNO and City of Penticton under CAI, piloting e-alert system to provide the water supply updates in spring, is completed. Funding now secured for implementing with broader community.

- Mr. Edwards (DFO): dealing with flood damage and directing resources to the areas of the greater impact; Funding – distributes opportunities as they emerge; restoration outreach opportunity distributed; call for proposals for next fiscal year on the way; Wilsey Dam Fish Passage committee – presentation to Fish Compensation program with BC Hydro was made in spring. DFO advocates for a dam removal as a best option. Okanagan River Restoration Initiative – finished installing forth platform last week to increase spawning capacity; negotiating water management solutions on Middle Vernon creek and Shuttleworth creek. Trying to apply EFN principles but different flow requirements put a pressure on water management and affected water users.
- Mr. Petersen (MAG): applying sections 86, 87 of WSA for the first time was somehow problematic due to issues with FIRFIT and positions of ground and surface water users in FITFIR. EFP was open again and was consumed in 2 days – very popular program. Mark Raymond moved to the position of Executive Director
- Mr. Hesketh (BC Cattlemen Association): Biodiversity tour on September 28th, Nelson forwarded the invitation. BC Hydro needs to be convinced that removing dam is a good idea. Purpose of the tour will be interaction with the public and raising awareness about Wilsey Dam. Encouraged to join the tour, bring friends, relatives and kids. Ag wastes regs – draft was supposed to put in front of the Minister in August; Hullcar aquifer – testing last week showed that nitrate levels went down; new source license application put in place.
- Mr. Naka (IIABC): irrigation efficiency affecting the timing of water being left or returned to the stream under different scenarios – approaches need to be weighed against stream flow requirements and timing. December 27th – IIABC annual meeting in Nanaimo.
- Ms Kirk (RDOS): suffered damage from flood and fire; numerous evacuation alert; tremendous damage to ag industry from flood and spontaneous tree dying; applied for infra upgrades for small water systems funding 0.5 mln. Well licensing online application improved after workshop. Will organize another well registration workshop before deadline on March 1st. Drought outreach to agricultural community worked well this year, encourage other purveyors

to adopt the system.

- Mr. Menders (BC Cattlemen Association – South): crops affected by natural disasters;
- Mr. Fyke (EA): working on climate data; got memberships on federal working groups and climate specialists in Victoria.
- Mr. Arts (Summerland orchardist): pass
- Mr. St.Onge (OK college): pass
- Mr. Hrasco (WSA): Annual general meeting will take place in Nelson in October in the same time as EFN Conference. Started at working BMID – working on Mission Creek stability to prevent sediments build up. Helped District of Summerland to put together grant application for replacing the 1.5 km plumb line on Trout Creek
- Mr. Vanproosdij (AE): joined Policy committee; interested in WSA as it applies to well registration and WSPs.
- Mr. Badasha (EGBC): pass
- Ms. Dudzik (RDCO): pass
- Ms. Green (BCGWA): word about well registration is being spread out; application needs to be submitted before March 1st processing might take time but it will not affect those who submitted before the deadline. Fall BCGWA meeting will be held in Vernon on October 19th.
- Mr. Birtles (IH): launching a new web-site for small water suppliers to answer the questions of water operators (source to tap approach). First launch in November, information specific to First Nations is being written right now; moving to phase 2 (interactive component) in new year.
- Mr. MacLean (City of Kelowna): costly flood mitigation works in progress; stormwater – preparing modeling and flood mapping process – received 3 grants so far and another 4 grants expected. RIP will come out shortly for the next step of water metering – upgrading data collection method. 30 mln dollar major transmission work construction for future supply SEKID in the future; SEKID side old system separation project has also begun.
- Mr. Guy (CWRA): EFN2018 conference format is rather experimental with stronger focus on communication, relationship building and collaborative learning. The indigenous decision-making framework (Four Food Chiefs) is supportive of such learning process. Bob Sandford will be delivering a presentation on climate change and ecosystems and will also be synthesizing the proceedings. The Council looks at asking Kathy Eichenberger, BC Negotiator, or the Minister Kathryn Convoy to present at one of the meetings on Columbia River Treaty; Policy committee has taken on a challenge of figuring

out if there is any way we could help the Province to improve well registration and licensing process.

- Ms. Scherer (Golder): pass
- Mr. Buchler (BCAC): seeking the clarity on GW licensing requirements based on the size of operation. Andrew Petersen explained that all commercial purposes should apply for a license but small domestic users don't need a license. Pointed out that in designing his new spillway he was advised to look into 1/1000 years event capacity.
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): Forest and Range Evaluation program (FLNRO) has a number of established protocols and recently BCWWF (Neil Fletcher was a part of that) developed a protocol for provincial wetland health assessment with the focus on hydrology, sedimentation disturbances as they relate to riparian health. Anyone who is interested in the program can contact Neil Fletcher – Lorne or Nelson can provide contact information.
- Mr. Boswell (OCCP): distributed booklet among lakeshore landowners with tips on flood protection and natural area conservation; surveying landowners on current practices; also, demonstration of restoration practices on two sites is underway; received funding for a lake management plan to work with 3 regional districts.
- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): New hydrology project for 19 stream in the Okanagan has received funding CAD 420,000. RFP went out in June and we received 4 proposals. Adjudication committee will evaluate proposals. The project outcome – supply and demand balance – will be utilized by local governments to feed their hydraulic models. The downscaled grid of the models will allow for their wide application in fisheries and water management in general.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be Thurs., October 11, 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 Zoe Kirk

Seconded by Brian Guy

“That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of September 13, 2018 be adjourned.”

CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director