

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2018, AT COAST CAPRI HOTEL, KELOWNA, B.C.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch
BC Agriculture Council
BC Fruit Growers Association
BC Ground Water Association
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
Canadian Water Resources Association
City of Kelowna
Emeritus
Engineers & Geoscientists BC
Irrigation Industry Association of BC
Ministry of FLNRORD (Resource Mgmt)
Okanagan College
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Regional District of North Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn
UBC Okanagan
Water Supply Association of BC

Kristen Hannam
Hans Buchler
Glen Lucas
Doug Geller
Lorne Davies
Brian Guy
Ed Hoppe
Denise Neilsen, Chair
Mike Nolan
Ted van der Gulik/Bruce Naka
Robert Warner
Allison O'Neil
Danika Dudzik
Jennifer Miles
Zoe Kirk/Evelyn Riechert
Murray Wilson
Craig Nichol
Bob Hrasko

Regrets

BC Cattlemen's Association
City of Vernon
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Interior Health Authority
Ministry of Agriculture
Min of Forests, Lands, Nat. Res. Ops. & Rural Devt (Fish/Wildlife)
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Okanagan Indian Band
Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Assoc.

Lee Hesketh/Keith Manders
Ed Stranks
Russel White/Chris Doyle
Doug Edwards
Rob Birtles/Judi Ekkert
Andrew Petersen/Stephanie Tam
Lora Nield
Scott Boswell/Tanis Gieselman
Tim Isaac/Dan Wilson
Glenn Mandziuk/Ellen Walker-Matthews

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

Associated Environmental
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
UBC-O
UBCO
UBC-O
Westcoast CED Consulting

Jeremy Fyke
Doug Lundquist
Kelly Chatterson
Marnie Turek
Mathieu Bourbonnais
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 Zoe Kirk

Seconded by Hans Buchler

"That the agenda for the October 11, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as amended." All in favor.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

A few changes were noted to acronyms being used. It was noted that APEGBC is now EGBC. There was a clarification made to Mr. Davies roundtable report.

Neil Fletcher was a part of the development of a protocol and not Neil Fletcher and Lorne.

Moved by Zoe Kirk

Seconded by Allison MacMillan

"That the minutes from the September 13, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved with the minor changes noted above." All in favor.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING (from previous meeting):

a) At the OBWB meeting on Oct 2nd, OBWB considered the committee approval framework for the OK Hydrology project. There was a recommendation that AE be the company to take on the project which has been approved. They will be looking at 19 plus sub systems in the Okanagan. This project builds on the EFN project as well as the recent LiDAR work. Initially organized into a Phase 1 and Phase 2, the scope will need to be reorganized to meet budget requirements.

b) Sub-committee updates:

Policy (Brian Guy) – they have had a couple of meetings, generated a list of members, and identified several issues that deserve attention. They have also identified leaders to champion these issues and sub-committees will be set up to address each of the issues.

Irrigation (Ted van der Gulik) - their first meeting was today. A report provided at the end of last term outlined a number of different things that needed to be done but it all seems to center around the need for education about available training and tools for irrigation management. They are looking at developing a course on how to conserve water through better irrigation management. It will be a 1-day workshop with the agriculture (farmers)

community and then they will look at one for landscape irrigation (homeowners). Ministry of Ag has offered funding which the group will need to apply for but it will tie into other things centered around agriculture, such as a course for water managers in the province. Greater Vernon Water is interested in sponsoring a course next spring, so the plan is to have this course ready by March. Then, with the help of Ag funding, over the next year it will be enhanced and tailored to specific sectors before encompassing the landscape irrigation community. They are also looking at developing a Q&A document that OBWB could put up on their website, that addresses various questions around agriculture and water (i.e., why do farmers irrigate 24x7). The third item being considered is for the policy committee on the landscape side of things – they want to look at barriers for implementing valley-wide standard soils by-laws. A specific request will go to the Policy Committee.

Communications (Zoe Kirk) – an email was sent out to all those involved on the committee last term. They had about 90% completion on objectives last term and will continue working towards completion this term, specifically working more with educational institutions on expanding integration with the Board. They will be convening a meeting soon. They may be able to help out with the Irrigation committee projects. Let Ms. Kirk know if you would like to be on the communications committee.

Dams & Reservoirs (Robert Warner) - had their first meeting three weeks ago. It is a strong group with a good representation by members. They are in the process of trying to figure out where to focus their efforts (i.e., valley lakes or upper watershed reservoirs), with the general consensus being to focus more on the upper watersheds. They are looking to develop a white paper on where to steer policy and direction, as well as the kind of impacts and tasks that could direct provincial policies.

Source water protection (Marnie Turek) – pulling together the same team as last term. There is significant interest again. Renee is away so more will be done once she is back.

Flood Protection (Scott Boswell) – nothing to report yet.

Sustainable Water Strategy (Kellie Garcia) – will be having an editorial board meeting soon. She is aiming for April for a completed strategy. It will be drafted cover to cover by next week but there is still a lot of work to be done. Significant progress has been made.

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

Mr. Jatel presented the Board Report on behalf of Ms. Sears. The Board meeting was held Oct 2nd. With the municipal elections on Oct 20th, it was noted that the Board composition will be changing. The first meeting of the new Board will be held in December. There was lots of discussion at the meeting about invasive mussels. There has been a lot of communication between the Board and the Province and the Board and the Federal Government. Letters are being sent out as well. LiDAR data and flood mapping were discussed and an update provided. James Littlely commented on the presentation of the Shuswap Watershed Council and provided some recommendations to the Board around liaising with them. Corinne Jackson reported on MWW and the upcoming EFN conference. Kelly Garcia provided an update on the OK mainstem lakes drought stage triggers and agriculture water supply communication. At their in-camera session, the contract for the OK Hydrology modeling project was awarded. He noted that the OBWB members (especially those not seeking re-election) expressed gratitude for the opportunity to sit on the Board. Ms. Neilsen also noted that many Board members also expressed their gratitude to the Council for the work being done. There are a number of OBWB directors that will not be returning next term, including the Chair and Vice Chair, so there could be a significant amount of re-education that may need to happen. Mr. Littlely noted that the province's reporting out on Z&Q mussels current inspection season is not available yet. He also commented that OBWB is pushing for the following: a legislative requirement that all boats entering into the province must report for inspection prior to launching in BC waters. Corrine noted that as of Sep 23rd, the Province had intercepted 22 mussel felled watercrafts coming into BC. Is this a trend? Is the story getting better or worse? They are waiting to see the final numbers to be able to report accurately back. Of significance is that they are inspecting more boats than ever before.

6. **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS: State of the Art & Applications with Lidar data (Mathieu Bourbonnais)**

Mr. Bourbonnais completed his Masters and PhD at the University of Victoria. His Masters research examined how spatial patterns of grizzly bear health and long-term stress in the Alberta population are influenced by landscape disturbance and environmental dynamics. His PhD research expanded on those concepts, as he developed new methods and tools to understand

how patterns of grizzly bear movement, quantified using high resolution GPS telemetry data, are influenced by landscape disturbance. Mr. Bourbonnais is an assistant professor at UBC-O in the Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences department. He teaches GIS and spatial analysis. He presented to the Council on GIS and state of the art and applications with Lidar data. He is currently helping to develop a new program around GIS for sciences. Most of his work has been in spatial ecology and movement ecology but the cross over is that he has worked extensively with Lidar data and a lot with GIS systems.

7. **MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE**

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

- Mr. van der Gulik (IIABC): spoke about issues related to the assessment process for licensing wells. Maybe this is something that the Council can look at further and possibly provide some kind of direction/input to the Province.
- Mr. Lucas (BCFGA): researching sudden tree death. There was a meeting at the Summerland Research Station to look at some possible causes. There is concern about well registry with the Mar 1st deadline fast approaching. There is a need to get growers aware of that deadline.
- Ms. Rahimova (UBCO): pass
- Mr. Buchler (BCAC): noted that agriculture in general is concerned about the possible threat to their water supply. There is a need to be looking at water across the entire basin and across all users and not in isolation. He noted that there are some interesting things happening in the Twin Lake area with some applications for residential development in an aquifer that is stressed and linked with other aquifers. Feels that the area being impacted needs to be expanded to include other areas that could be impacted in the long term. It would make a lot of sense to make sure long-term impacts/needs are being taken into consideration.
- Mr. Littlely (OBWB): pass.
- Mr. Geller (GWABC): they have hired a new general manager (David Mercer). The GWABC advisory committee will have a meeting with the Ministry of Environment on Oct 26th to continue dialogue regarding flowing wells and some of the issues in the groundwater protection regulation. They continue to work towards getting the lingo around well registration and well licensing right. Well registration is a requirement to submit the well log to the Province. Well licensing is getting a permit from the Province to divert water from a well. There is a BCGWA regional meeting being held in Vernon next week (Oct 19th).

- Mr. Hoppe (City of Kelowna): they have received a grant from the National Disaster Mitigation Program to conduct some flood risk assessment studies. They are in the final stages of field studies for a brand new source water protection plan. They will be conducting a QWEL (qualified water efficient landscaper) training program. They will be pushing to have this as a by-law requirement for the city. It will be the first in Canada. They would like to see this program expanded.
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): there is a new moose tracker application which will help to monitor moose populations and inform conservation efforts. One of the big areas BCWF is concerned about is the Heart of the Fraser, between Mission and Hope. There is concern about development on some of the islands and the negative impact of that development.
- Mr. Naka (IIABC): feels there should be more investigation happening around educational programs like QWEL. There are some synergies and possible areas where groups can work together.
- Ms. Hannam (AAFC): getting research program up and started. There are several projects that she is initiating including: 1) utility of post-harvest deficit irrigation in cherry orchards; 2) looking at the effects of irrigation water application on soil quality; and 3) working with local First Nations developing agriculture on reserve lands.
- Ms. Turek (UBCO): hosting a community water forum on Nov 21st (Extreme Weather in the Okanagan). They are working towards forming a water research cluster on campus and have officially formalized a water research network. A website will be coming soon. The watershed field tour hosted in June was a great success with 40 participants. They have submitted an Eminence Program proposal and will receive notification by November. Extended thanks for the letters of support received. Also, extended a thank you for all of the hard work going into the EFN conference.
- Mr. Lundquist (ECCC): looking at establishing linkages between ECCC & OWSC to help with the goals of the Council. Some important points have been noted including meteorological data collaboration, collection and accessibility; informational meeting for synergies and ideas that can pass between each organization.
- Ms. Miles (RDNO): current challenge is the meter data resolution. They are trying to better track water leaks. They are having their Duteau Creek Watershed Technical Advisory Committee fall field tour on Oct 25th. She was part of the Provincial drought team and there have been frequent conference calls with a debrief happening on Nov 1st.
- Mr. Nolan (EGBC): A few years ago, there was an initiative started with EGBC and BC Ministry of Health called Water System Risk Management planning. It is a high-level risk assessment concept that targets local governments responsible for water, waste water, stormwater, watersheds. The project has moved to the completion of four community pilots and has provided great value for those communities involved. There have been some interesting results. The reports for the 4 communities are being prepared now. This may be an interesting presentation the Council may want to consider as the program moves forward.
- Mr. Guy (CWRA): involved and interested in water management in BC and across Canada. The EFN conference coming up is the fourth Okanagan conference they have been involved in organizing.
- Mr. Nicol (UBCO): they have a guest coming up from Montana who will be giving a technical presentation to the department on Oct 16th looking at using acoustic Doppler radar to map out river systems. On Nov 19th, there is a workshop on Hydrologic Modelling using the Raven platform.
- Ms. Dudzik (RDCO): Regional Growth Plan is a 5-year action plan that outlines priority initiatives for the Central Okanagan. It contains nine projects supporting varying policies across a few different focus areas. Currently working on an RFP for the Regional Growth Strategy Monitoring Program. In support of the resource for Okanagan Lakeshore Living worked on jointly with OCCP, the RDCO continues to work with the public to push best practices and naturalization of the foreshore. They are hosting a collaborative staff workshop at the end of October.
- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): working on communication support for the EFN. MWW is wrapping up. They had three winners this year for each of the NOk, COk and SOk. There was a 33% increase in entries this year. DMM outreach has wrapped up.
- Mr. Bourbonnais (guest): pass
- Mr. Wilson (SOFA): thank you to Marni Turek for the great tour that she organized. He felt like the tour really surprised a lot of the participants in terms of how many users (ATV & 4x4 users, bike trails, shooting ranges, etc.) there are actually out on the forest landscape. After two summers in a row of fires, people are really questioning the land management regime.
- Mr. Warner (FLNRORD): they look after a lot of authorizations including GW, SW, lands, forest tenures and, this year, fire. One of the things

done differently this year by BC Wildfire Service was to inform people as the fires were happening and being transparent on how they were fighting the fire and what was happening on the land base. With regards to water, rehabilitation plans are being done with input making sure the highest priority areas are completed first. They are still dealing with the 2017 floods and damage that occurred.

- Ms. Riechert (RDOS): they are going through a reorganization process. It has been a busy year in the planning department.
- Ms. Kirk (RDCO): 175 days of EOC. They are still flooding. There is an IHA Conference Nov 5 & 6 – Making the Links 2018: Climate Change and Community – in Kelowna at Laurel Packing House. They have been asked through IHA to do a filtration deferral assessment on the Naramata water system. They are also concerned about the Mar 1st deadline for well licensing. They had one workshop focused on agriculture last August and are hosting another one on Jan 24th. They are continuing with some climate adaptation programs for agriculture through BCAC. The drought outreach project will be extended as well as a pilot fire and fuel management for agriculture. They received \$60,000 from the BC Real Estate Foundation for a South Okanagan compendium providing potential home-owners with information on living in the SOK.
- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): at the Nov 8th meeting there will be a speaker talking about the Columbia Basin, the Treaty, and the Treaty process. The Small Grants program has seen some changes this year in terms of the prioritization process. Think about submitting applications.
- Ms. Neilsen (Emeritus): recently published a paper with Ted van der Gulik, Anna Warwick

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Sears, Scott Smith, et al. in 'Frontiers in Environmental Science' talking about the water demand model with a section on the Okanagan looking at the importance of allocation levels and how frequently they may not meet the demands of irrigators. On behalf of First Things First, a climate action group, she noted that they have Kirsten Zickfeld presenting to the group on Oct 19th in Penticton. The topic is "Keeping the planet below 2°C."

8. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Neilsen mentioned that committee membership is a requirement of all Council members. There are several committees and if you are not already on a committee please get in touch with a committee head, Nelson or Denise to get involved. In June, Corinne gave a presentation on communications and the communications policy. A reminder was extended to the Council that only Mr. Jatel and Chair Neilsen can speak on behalf of the OWSC.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be Thurs., November 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 4:30 p.m.

Moved by Lorne Davies

"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of October 11, 2018 be adjourned."

CARRIED

Chair

Executive Director