

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018, AT COAST CAPRI HOTEL, KELOWNA, B.C.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch
BC Agriculture Council
BC Cattlemen's Association
BC Ground Water Association
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8
Canadian Water Resources Association
City of Kelowna
Emeritus
Interior Health Authority
Irrigation Industry Association of BC
Ministry of Agriculture
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Okanagan College
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Regional District of North Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Assoc.
UBC Okanagan
Water Supply Association of BC

Kristen Hannam
Hans Buchler
Keith Manders
Marta Green
Lorne Davies & Jackson McPherson
Brian Guy
Rod MacLean
Denise Neilsen, Chair
Rob Birtles
Ted van der Gulik & Bruce Naka
Andrew Petersen & Stephanie Tam
Scott Boswell
Rob St. Onge
Danika Dudzik
Renee Clark
Zoe Kirk
Ellen Walker-Matthews
Craig Nichol
Patti Meager

Regrets

BC Fruit Growers Association
City of Vernon
Engineers & Geoscientists BC
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ministry of FLNRORD (Resource Mgmt)
Min of Forests, Lands, Nat. Res. Ops. & Rural Devt (Fish/Wildlife)
Okanagan Indian Band
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn

Glen Lucas
Ed Stranks
Mike Nolan/Don Dobson
Russel White/Chris Doyle
Doug Edwards
Robert Warner
Lora Nield
Tim Isaac/Dan Wilson
Murray Wilson

STAFF

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

Anna Warwick Sears
Corinne Jackson
James Littley
Kellie Garcia

GUESTS

Associated Environmental
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Ministry of FLNRORD
OBWB
Orchardist
Penticton Indian Band
UBC-O
UBC-O
UBC-O
Westcoast CED Consulting

Glenn Sinclair
Judie Steeves
Paul Edmonds
Scott Smith
Tom Walker
Jeremy Fyke
Doug Lundquist
Patricia Brett
Stefanie Wenker
Adrian Arts
Dawn Russel
John Janmaat
Marni Turek
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'ix people, the original inhabitants of the Okanagan.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA**

Moved by Scott Boswell
Seconded by Andrew Petersen

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

CARRIED

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by Kristen Hannam
Seconded by Scott Boswell

"That the minutes from the October 11, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved." All in favor. CARRIED

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

a) Ms. Sears provided an update on the Lidar Acquisition project. Following the floods of 2017, OBWB started working with RD's and municipalities to get some flood mapping complete and OBWB worked with them to apply for some large grants. EMBC heard about the collaborative work they were doing and contributed to the lidar portion of the flood mapping. This has been underway since mid-March. There have been a number of difficulties which have caused delays on the project. They are hoping that by late December or early January the lidar images will be available. The information will be available to all the Okanagan communities including FNs, RDs and municipalities, as well as others (researchers and consultants). The data will be owned by GeoBC.

b) Sub-committee updates:

Flood Protection (Scott Boswell) – Mr. Boswell will be meeting later today with RDCO. They have a water/flood planning committee with similar parallels to the work of the OWSC committee. They suggested that they combine the two committees and save on duplication of efforts. Mr. Boswell will report back on this at the next meeting.

Source protection (Renee Clark) – the committee met today and reviewed their workplan. They are working on the tasks and outcomes of the committee. They hope to have this finalized by the end of next week. The committee will meet four times face-to-face and any other meetings will be through conference calls. The committee wants to make sure that all of the work completed last term doesn't get lost. They are looking at ways to get that information out to other OWSC committee members

as well as the public. They are looking at ways for people to access the information.

Irrigation (Bruce Naka) - their first meeting was a month ago. Their main focus will be on the training and educational component. They are in the process of putting together a training manual. The first session/workshop will be held in March in Vernon. There was a question regarding who would be funding the workshop. Mr. Naka signed a contract with M of Ag under the CAPP program and the RDNO (as they have done in the past). Within the next month they will have a layout for the workshop content in order that it can be promoted.

Communications (Zoe Kirk) – Ms. Kirk is having to step down as Chair of this committee as a result of changes at the regional district. The committee is hoping to complete the last 10% of their deliverables from the previous term. They are focused on reaching out to and utilizing academia more. Ms. Kirk will continue to play a role on the committee but they require someone to take over the leadership role.

Dams & Reservoirs (Rod Maclean) – the committee has about 12 members. They have met twice. They have looked at about seven different opportunities. They are in the process of developing a white paper focused a little bit on some history but mainly providing information on how the committee will be moving forward.

Policy (Brian Guy) – the committee has taken on 7 or 8 issues that they are working on developing recommendations for OBWB. Three of them that have had more focus. First, the UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) issue. The committee is considering ways in which OBWB can take some action in response to recent Federal/Provincial adoption of the UNDRIP principles and the calls to action contained in Murray Sinclair's Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report. They are assembling existing documents that describe how other municipalities and groups like OBWB are responding to these. This is in progress. Second, Mr. Birtles discussed an approach to pushing forward the source protection work that Ms. Clark's group is involved in. He has been tasked with looking at the source water protection policies drafted in 2010. The two policies (riparian environment and setbacks to water courses) were not accepted by the Board at the time. The committee has reviewed the policies and the language and taken another look at the intent of the policies and are now looking at the development of a source water protection by-laws toolkit. The hope is that there will be similar by-laws up and down the valley around source protection. They are looking for some discussion and feedback on this idea. Ms.

Garcia commented about having the source protection toolkit as an online resource. Connect with Brian and/or Rob on this. Third is around the WSA in terms of communication and implementation troubles. The committee has developed a concept letter for OBWB to write to the Province to encourage them to delay the implementation of the act. They have been reaching out to government, irrigation, BCGWA, hydrogeologist association gathering together a detailed list of items around process by which GW is to be brought in, mechanisms, is the process understood by people, the consequences of the WSA. The theme was that the deadline of Feb 29 is not long enough. The committee is proposing that OWSC recommend to OBWB they write a letter to the Province asking them to extend the deadline and, possibly even, provide a greater commitment to resources and outreach to assist people in getting through the process. This generated a great deal of discussion regarding the situation and what else it entails. The process needs to be fair and the province needs more time to implement this and people need more time to apply. FITFIR doesn't have to apply after Feb 29 but if the deadline is extended there is more time to get through the system. Mr. Guy put forth the following motion:

OWSC asks OBWB to write a letter to the Province on this issue recommending some steps and taking into account the comments that have been made at this table; and, secondly, OWSC provide a draft letter to OBWB for that purpose. The motion was seconded by Mr. van der Gulik. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

Mr. Guy noted that because this is a time sensitive issue the committee will have something ready to have presented at the OBWB meeting in December.

5. BOARD REPORT (Anna Warwick Sears)

OBWB did not meet in November. Dr. Sears reminded OWSC members of her annual Christmas party that will take place after the OWSC December 13th meeting.

6. 2018 FLOODING: A year in review (Zoe Kirk, RDOS, Dawn Russell, PIB, and Paul Edmonds)

Ms. Kirk and Ms. Russell presented to the Council on the impact of climate change and adaptation and the events of 2018 for the RDOS. Local governments are tasked with opening and operating emergency operations centres (EOC) when there are extreme events. RDOS began the 2018 season with a thank you to the media celebration for the excellent job they did during the 2017 season. This took place on Mar 17th. They updated the media on the events moving forward into 2018. On March 23rd, the district was under full evacuation alert and the EOC was opened.

Ms. Kirk spoke about the number of staff hours put in during the season and requirements of Emergency Operations staff including alerting the public, moving people, making sure people are safe and working with the various partner groups coordinating the efforts. Ms. Russel is the communications coordinator for PIB. She spoke about the human element, cultural values and traditional knowledge that play a role in EOC operations. The RDOS EOC and PIB EOC provided each other with support and guidance throughout the season to build capacity for emergency response. The RDOS EOC is still open and active with the last bits of flooding and paperwork being completed. The idea is there that emergency management will most likely need to occur all 12 months as there is recovery and preparation for the coming year to be dealt with.

Paul Edmonds spoke further about emergency operations and procedures. He came to the regional district from the United Kingdom where he worked in national disaster management for close to 23 years. He was just over 2 months into his role as the new emergency management program coordinator when the region went into full emergency operations. RDOS staff and volunteers at the EOS play a key role in informing the media and residents about what's taking place once an emergency situation is declared. He also spoke about working with the different partners at various levels of government to ensure comprehensive emergency planning and preparedness. A video was created during the 2018 spring freshet featuring Mr. Edmonds discussing response measures and highlighting how the EOC managed the incident and worked to improve response. Mr. Edmonds has since left RDOS and is now doing independent contract work and helping communities around BC affected by disasters. He has recently been part of the Grand Forks disaster and showed a graphic description of what happened when the rivers burst their banks at about 30% more of the usual spring freshet. The flooding affected hundreds of homes and businesses in Grand Forks. He showed a video documented the impact and current needs of residents and businesses. It provides a good idea of what residents are facing right now and looking at facing this winter. The recovery process will take time. This was the largest flood in modern history in BC and some changes at the provincial level are required. The province has acknowledged gaps in the recovery elements and acknowledged mitigation. Mr. Edmonds also presented on plans for rebuilding Grand Forks and noted that 122 homes need to be moved if funding can be attained. Also, noted that funding programs for regional districts,

municipalities and even the province for risk assessment and mitigation needs to change. There needs to be proactive planning but also reactive programs in place.

7. **MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE**

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

- Ms. Hannam (AAFC): the Summerland Research Station had a recent visit from an environmental chemist from Lethbridge (Claudia Sheedy) who spoke to about the use of biobeds to process water that is used to rinse pesticide and herbicide tanks. There will be a demonstration biobed installed at the Station this spring. They will be holding a series of workshops hopefully in the Fall showing the biobed.
- Mr. Smith (guest): most of his career was with Ag Canada in soil mapping. He is now being contracted to do soil data development in support of the water demand model. Most of the information in the Province soil information is old and out of date. They are working hard on the soil database and trying to maintain them and enhance them with new data.
- Ms. Walker-Matthews (TOTA): the region is the first in North American to be certified as a biosphere sustainable destination and they have now been recertified for a 2nd year. They are working with the communities and stakeholders in tourism to get them on board with a commitment process. At their AGM and Summit (Driving Sustainable Tourism) in Osoyoos next week, they will be recognizing the first 15 to have gone through the process. TOTA members were in Saskatoon last week at the International Indigenous Tourism conference last week and they are excited to announce that it will be in Kelowna next year.
- Ms. Clark (RDNO): she recently returned from vacation in Croatia and Slovenia and one of the amazing things she noted was that everyone drank from taps. There was no plastic. She would love to see this in the Okanagan-zero waste, drink from the tap. RDNO is working with the Forest Enhancement Society of BC to come up with a plan for the community watershed to do wildfire mitigation.
- Mr. Janmaat (guest): he is part of the BC Agricultural Climate Adaption research network whose aim is to connect academia to conduct research that supports agriculture adaptation to climate change in BC. There is a workshop in Kamloops Dec 4-5 titled "Crossing disciplinary and institutional boundaries for climate change adaptation."
- Mr. McPherson (BCWF): he is part of BCWF as their alternate OWSC member and he is a youth

advisory member for a non-profit organization called Waterlution. He is going various schools to discuss water quality. He will provide a short presentation explaining terms used in water quality that can be confusing to people.

- Mr. Davies (BCWF): pass
- Ms. Steeves (guest): pass
- Mr. Petersen (MAG): last week they finished with the drought wrap up for the Thompson Okanaga. The drought level in the Skeena Region has finally dropped below level 4. There are two GW licensing workshops being held on Nov 19 & 20 in Grand Forks - Midway. He will be teaching a pump course for the IIABC Nov 27-28 in Nanaimo.
- Mr. Guy (CWRA): the EFN Conference was three weeks ago and it was jointly led by my OBWB and CWRA and substantial ONA involvement. The comments from the conference are strong and participants have indicated they enjoyed the format and content of the presentations.
- Dr. Nichol (UBCO): on Nov 19, the EGBC (Okanagan) are hosting a Raven Hydrologic Modeling workshop. On Nov 21, UBCO is hosting a community water forum looking at fire and flood. The keynote speaker is Ray Crampton, FLNRORD who will be presenting on the government response to the 2017 review of the 2017 season. On Nov 23, Dr. Maskai Hayashi (UofC) will be presenting on Alpine Hydrogeology. UBCO is continuing work on a data and water quality project (direct questions to Marnie Turek). The researchers are looking at expanding on the project and determining what happens after data has been collected. What kinds of problems are people trying to solve and how can this be done (mechanics)? They are looking for further funding for this project.
- Dr. Warwick Sears (OBWB): the first meeting of the new Board will be Dec 12th. They are waiting to see who will comprise the new Board as a number of past Directors have stepped down.
- Ms. Meager (WSABC): added comments on the Integrated Wildfire Reduction plan and how important it is to have a hydrologist as well as a wildfire specialist involved. This is a huge collaborative effort between purveyors and stakeholders. The WSABC just held a successful AGM. They have had three of their Board members retire and three new people have stepped up. They will be having a strategic session to look at the direction/focus going forward.
- Mr. Naka (IIABC): IIABC is hosting its annual convention in Nanaimo Nov 26-30. He attended a City of Kelowna meeting centered around by-laws. They have done a lot of work in this area and are in the process of revitalizing the development of by-laws. There are a number of synergies that can

be worked on in terms of work the Irrigation committee is working on that is similar to work being done by the City of Kelowna.

- Mr. Arts (guest): the pest management centre is hosting a webinar on Nov 26 on biobeds. In Summerland, the water was turned off on Sep 30 which was concerning for the Ag industry as in past years it has been turned off on Oct 15.
- Ms. Brett (guest): busy dealing with the fallout from fire, flood and drought. They are busy with existing GW licensing and helping out with applications as well as actively pulling GW applications from Front Counter BC and working on those.
- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): has been busy working on the EFN Conference which was successfully completed. She is completing final wrap up reports for MWW and DMM. She has also been compiling school materials. The Community Water Forum is sold out.
- Ms. Green (BCGWA): they had their first of four fall regional meetings. They have a new GM. He is a hydrogeologist and does marketing for GW related companies. Their membership has definite concerns with GW licensing and the time it takes to get a license, i.e., vineyards not knowing the timing.
- Mr. Fyke (guest): AE has recently started their hydrology modelling work for OBWB.
- Mr. Lundquist (ECCC): last time he was at a Council meeting there was some question about data and collecting data and getting meteorological data all in one spot. He checked with staff and there is a data sharing agreement almost complete between the Province and ECCC meaning all of the provincial data from the various agencies will be in one spot.
- Mr. Manders (BCCA): pass
- Mr. Edmonds (guest): pass
- Ms. Russell (guest): extended her thank you to the Council for welcoming her to the meeting today.
- Ms. Kirk (RDCO): new Emergency management program coordinator starting on Dec 1st. They have received a number of government grants to do a sewer extension. Ms. Kirk attended a conference supported by the Real Estate Foundation on the health aspects of adapting to climate change. It was an excellent, informative conference.
- Ms. Rahimova (UBCO): pass
- Mr. Littley (OBWB): he will be putting out the call for applications for the WCQI grants. These will be allocated on a valley-wide basis for the first time. Last week, he attended a meeting of water funders and leaders in Victoria and he wanted to make note to the Council that the RBC Blue Water

Fund still exist. They have money each year to distribute but their website makes it look like they are no longer operational. Contact James for information. OBWB will be taking a new approach with the milfoil project and rototilling starting with Vaseaux Lake. They are developing a new process whereby they will approach First Nation groups (i.e., ONA, PIB, OIB) to have them develop a list of concerns (i.e., water quality, habitat, archeological sites, and cultural mapping) with areas they will be launching at.

- Ms. Tam (MAG): she is working with FLNRORD staff to outreach GW licensing. They have been coordinating with the commodity associations and doing presentations at their AGMs, trade shows, etc. trying to reach out to the producers regarding the approaching deadline. The Pacific Agriculture Show is on Jan 24-26, 2019. She is organizing a session at the tradeshow on Agriculture water (Jan 25). Ministry of Environment staff will be presenting on the proposed changes on Agriculture Waste Control regulation and WSA.
- Mr. van der Gulik (IIABC): the Agriculture Water license calculator is having a revision and should be complete in about a month. It will allow users to calculate monthly use (biggest change) and not just annual use. IIABC has a contract with the Province to look after Farmwest and maintaining the weather stations. They are also wanting to complete a GAAP analysis to see where weather stations are missing. Let Ted know where you think a station might be missing. He was at a meeting this morning talking about the Ag Water Demand Model and they are thinking about putting it online. They are developing a workplan and financing requirements.
- Ms. Neilsen (Emeritus): pass

8. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Neilsen thanked all of the committees for the work they continue to do and extended further thanks to the Committee Chairs for their commitment. They, along with Ms. Neilsen and Mr. Jatel, meet every two weeks for an hour on the phone to discuss plans and topics for the Council meetings. She thanked the presenters for an informative, thought provoking presentation and commented on the need to develop and hold on to a sense of urgency in responding to the effects of global warming. It is global warming that is driving most of the disasters that are being coped with whether it be flood, fire or drought. It is an urgent situation.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the OWSC will be Thurs., December 13, 2018 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm at the

Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna.
Following the OWSC meeting will be Dr. Sear's
annual Christmas celebration.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Moved by Zoe Kirk

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

CARRIED

Chair

Executive Director