

# OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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

## REVISED MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 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 Cattlemen's Association  
BC Fruit Growers Association  
BC Ground Water Association  
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8  
Canadian Water Resources Association  
City of Kelowna  
Emeritus  
Engineers & Geoscientists BC  
Interior Health Authority  
Irrigation Industry Association of BC  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program  
Okanagan Indian Band  
Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen  
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn  
UBC Okanagan

Kristen Hannam  
Hans Buchler  
Keith Manders  
Glen Lucas  
Marta Green  
Lorne Davies & Jackson McPherson  
Brian Guy  
Rod MacLean & Ed Hoppe  
Denise Neilsen, Chair  
Mike Nolan  
Rob Birtles  
Ted van der Gulik & Bruce Naka  
Andrew Petersen  
Scott Boswell  
Tim Isaac  
Danika Dudzik  
Zoe Kirk/Evelyn Reichert  
Ted Swab  
Craig Nichol/Bernie Bauer

#### Regrets

City of Vernon  
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 College  
Regional District of North Okanagan  
Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Assoc.  
Water Supply Association of BC

Ed Stranks  
Russel White/Chris Doyle  
Doug Edwards  
Robert Warner  
Lora Nield  
Allison O'Neill/Rob St. Onge  
Renee Clark/Jennifer Miles  
Glenn Mandziuk/Ellen Walker-Matthews  
Patti Meager

### STAFF

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

Anna Warwick Sears  
Nelson Jatel  
Corinne Jackson  
James Littley  
Kellie Garcia

### GUESTS

Associated Environmental  
District of Summerland  
District of Summerland  
Ministry of FLNRORD  
Orchardist  
UBCO  
UBCO  
Westcoast CED Consulting

Judie Steeves  
Jeremy Fyke  
Alison Thorpe  
Tami Rothery  
Patricia Brett  
Adrian Arts  
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'ix people, the original inhabitants of the Okanagan.

2. **APPROVE AGENDA**

**Noted that the date on the Agenda needed to be changed to December 13, 2018.**

**Moved by Andrew Petersen**

**Seconded by Lorne Davies**

***"That the agenda for the December 13, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved with noted date change."***

***All in favor. CARRIED***

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Some changes were noted regarding the misspelling of a couple of names, the date of the meeting minutes (October 11 and should be November 8), minor spelling errors (exist not exits, collaborative not collaborate), and date of OBWB meeting (Dec 13 not Dec 6).**

**Moved by Evelyn Reichert**

**Seconded by Scott Boswell**

***"That the minutes from the November 8, 2018 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved with noted changes."***

***All in favor. CARRIED***

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

a) Dr. Sears provided an update on correspondence sent to the Ministers at FLNRORD and ECC regarding extending the deadline for groundwater licensing as well as to senior policy staff detailing policy recommendations for the extension. She has received a letter from Minister Heyman thanking OBWB and outlining the efforts underway to reach out and encourage users to complete their groundwater licensing applications. There were many comments around the table regarding the deadline and the need for an extension. It was noted that many users don't seem to understand the reason that the licensing is being done and therefore have opted not to complete the application process. There is no clear messaging regarding what penalties will be in place for those who do not have a groundwater license after the deadline date nor how the government will be enforcing issues of non-compliance. There is still a lot of concern around the slow up take for groundwater licenses and the small number of groundwater users that have applied to date. However, at the moment it doesn't appear that the government is in favor of extending the deadline. Groups/users are encouraged to send messages to the government.

b) Sub-committee updates:

Irrigation (Bruce Naka) – the group met this morning. Members of the committee have met with the City of Kelowna and are looking at their QUEL (qualified water efficient landscaper) program. The program has some good initiatives and a high caliber of information is available. The committee will be setting aside some time in January for a more in-depth meeting with the City about the program.

Dams & Reservoirs (Bernie Bauer) – the committee has spent some time scoping out the focus as it is a broad topic. The committee has narrowed its efforts to small dams and reservoirs in the upper and mid-level elevations. They have undertaken a SWOT analysis and have filled out a table which will be combined into specific narratives around the threats. The group is also working on a Table of Contents for a White Paper which is one of the planned deliverables for this term.

Policy (Brian Guy) – the committee's focus is on 7 issues and they have been developing workplans for those issues. Progress is being made on all 7 issues but they spent some time during the morning meeting on 3 of them including: 1) developing a source protection toolkit, championed by Mr. Birtles and working with the Source Protection Committee; 2) ensuring enough water for the Agriculture sector and working on an approach to recommend to the Board; and 3) conceptualizing an Okanagan-wide water plan.

Flood Protection (Scott Boswell) – the committee has spent time looking at what the needs are for flood planning. He met with Jeanelle Taylor who has agreed to be the co-Chair for the group. They are designing two workshops for later this spring. One will look at what LiDAR mapping can do for flood mapping/planning and the other will look at other ways LiDAR mapping can be used.

Sustainable Water Strategy (Kellie Garcia) – the editorial board have been working hard at getting a draft prepared. The draft will be sent out to the OWSC members just before Christmas break with plans to briefly discuss the document at the January meeting. Most of the comments will be received through email or by phone. There will be a longer workshop at the February meeting that will look at the updated draft. The plan is to bring the strategy to the OWSC meeting in March for adoption and then to the April OBWB meeting to be received.

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

OBWB had their first meeting of the new Board on December 12. A new Chair, Sue McKortoff (Mayor of Osoyoos), and a new Vice Chair, Cindy Fortin (Mayor of Peachland) were elected. There is a lot of passion for water with this new Board and they are looking

forward to an exciting, strong term. The LiDAR mapping project is close to being complete (mid to end of January). The Board has approved a contract for a bathymetric study, mapping the shape and depth of the Okanagan River channel between Penticton and Osoyoos, and a contract has also been approved to begin flood mapping of Okanagan mainstem lakes.

**6. WHAT ARE CLIMATE MODELS AND HOW DO THEY WORK, Jeremy Fyke, Associated Environmental**

Mr. Fyke is an international expert in climate modelling and climate projections. He provides advice on interpreting and using existing climate models, and develops location-specific climate projections. Before joining Associated Environmental, he worked at the Centre for Ocean, Sea Ice, and Land Ice Modeling (part of the U.S. Department of Energy) in Los Alamos, New Mexico. His work focused on understanding and modeling the inter-relationships between major ice sheets, such as those in Greenland and the Antarctica, and the climate. Mr. Fyke's presentation looked at why climate models are needed, what global climate models are, how global climate models are tested and how global climate models can be applied locally. Global climate models are being integrated and applied more and more in decision making. After the 1980's, there has been a clearer signal of global warming and climate change is driven by the signal towards more warming. Global climate models help us to understand why we are seeing the warming patterns overtime and they provide a useful tool to try and predict climate in the future to prepare for what we may have to prepare for or adapt or adapt to. The output from the climate models are being used more and more in reporting. Climate models represent all important aspects of the climate system using understanding from chemistry, physics, biology, geology, math, statistics, economics, demographics and social sciences so we can answer questions about how the system works and understand why climate change has/is occurring.

**7. MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE**

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

- Ms. Rahimova (UBCO): pass
- Mr. Boswell (OCCP): OCCP and SOSCP had a meeting on Nov 26 with representatives from local government and First Nations to talk about protection of Okanagan Lake. They are looking at new management plans for the lake and working on a Terms of Reference for project initiation in April.

- Ms. Reichert (RDOS): pass
- Ms. Kirk (RDOS): hosting a well licensing workshop on Jan 31<sup>st</sup> in the afternoon. As a result of a workshop in 2016 and feedback from the province's behavior analysis unit, the process has now been streamlined. In the morning, there will be an inaugural drought response team meeting with the agricultural community and small water purveyors. More information will be sent out soon. RDOS still has EOC Level 1. They are putting out RFPs for source water protection and filtration deferral for Naramata water system. The District is getting a new EOC building. They are still debriefing from the 2018 season. It will be an ongoing process with a lot of questions to be answered. The wetlands project is moving ahead.
- Mr. Birtles (IH): Health Canada is developing a Guideline on Manganese for Drinking Water Quality. Today they are doing a soft launch of project called the Online Help Centre for Small Water Suppliers.
- Mr. Guy (CWRA): CWRA 2019 Annual Conference is being held at Blue Mountain Resort near Collingwood, ON, May 26-31. The theme is Shared Water, Competing Ethics: Collaboration in Water Management.
- Mr. Nolan (EGBC): EGBC is hosting a one-day event on climate change and water management on Jan 28<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver.
- Ms. Dudzik (RDCO): held a workshop called Driving Collaboration on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. There was great turnout with representation from non-profit, First Nations and government organizations coming together to build relationships and increase collaboration across the region on protecting Okanagan Lake and its foreshore. They are hoping to do more of these in the future.
- Ms. Brett (FLNRORD): working with RDNO and they will be hosting a groundwater licensing workshop as well.
- Dr. Warwick Sears (OBWB): the BC Water & Waste Association 2019 Annual Conference & Trade show is in Victoria in May. The conference theme is the Rise of Water. Their deadline for abstracts is December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Ms. Jackson (OBWB): they have a tri-fold educational tool (infographic): Climate Change and Water in the Okanagan. MWW and DMM have wrapped up and the final reports are being completed. There will be a focus group in January to see about ways to tweak and improve the programs to ensure continued engagement. A River Film won the Oregon International Film Platinum Award for documentary feature. They have copies at the OBWB office if anyone is interested in viewing. The Social Life of Water is at the EcoCentre. Please make sure you are

receiving your copy of the OBWB Report. The most recent one has been sent out.

- Mr. Bauer (UBCO): pass
- Ms. Steeves (guest): pass
- Ms. Green (BCGWA): 2019 BCGWA Trade Show, Convention and AGM is April 10 & 11 in Langley.
- Ms. Rothery (Summerland): pass
- Ms. Thorpe (Summerland): pass
- Mr. Arts (Orchardist): there was a webinar on biobeds recently. There are about 3000 biobeds in Europe. Protecting GW in Europe is a huge deal. The cost to install a structure on a farm is about \$14000. Looking at potential funding through the Environmental Farm Plan.
- Mr. Lucas (BCFGA): pass
- Ms. Hannam (AAFC): recently attended an agriculture and climate change research network workshop. Their goal is to look at collaborative projects in the region. The 2 main topics of the workshop were: 1) looking at research projects to help improve drought management in the BC tree fruit sector; and 2) looking at how to improve wildfire recovery in the BC cattle sector. The Summerland Research Station will be setting up their own biobed this spring.
- Mr. Manders (BCCA): pass
- Mr. MacLean (WSABC): WSABC has four new board members. There have been some big changes to the Board in the past year so they are in the process of reviewing their goals and future outcomes. Their annual spring workshop is April 4 & 5 in Kelowna.
- Mr. Swab (SOFA): looking at wildfire threat reduction.
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): noted that the Supreme Court has ruled Douglas Lake Ranch illegally closed public roads to fishing lakes. The mule deer study is ongoing.
- Mr. Naka (IIABC): the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Expo/Conference was held in Nanaimo Nov 27-30. He attended the Irrigation Association irrigation show in Long Beach, CA and found it very enlightening. They have a new product of the year session which is a great way to see some of the new technology for the industry. He spent some time wandering through the various categories.
- Mr. Buchler (BCAC): noted that while it was ruled

that the Douglas Lake land owner has to grant access to the public water body the expectation is that it will be appealed. This is a precedent setting case.

- Mr. Hoppe (Kelowna): today was budget deliberation for Kelowna council. They have approved a number of initiatives. The city's first draft of a new source water protection plan is complete. The technical advisory committee will now review and redraft the plan.
- Mr. Petersen (MAG): he attended the irrigation association meeting and delivered a pump course and was in Victoria for the provincial drought wrap up. They are hoping for a new manager by January. He will be giving a few presentations over the next month.
- Mr. van der Gulik (IIABC): pass
- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): pass
- Mr. Bourbonnais (UBCO): pass
- Ms. Neilsen (Emeritus): noted that Mr. Fyke will be working on extending the 500m data sets so there will be data out to 2017 and, as a next step, further out into the future. So, there will be lots of new data coming for climate change projects.

#### 8. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Neilsen thanked Mr. Fyke for an interesting and thought-provoking presentation. She extended thanks to the committees for working hard on their projects and is excited to see some of the good outcomes already. This is the last meeting of the year and she wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season.

#### 9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the OWSC will be Thurs., January 10, 2019 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.

#### 10. ADJOURNMENT

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

**Moved by Zoe Kirk**

***"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of December 13, 2018 be adjourned."***

**CARRIED**

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Chair

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Executive Director