

# OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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

## MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019, AT COAST CAPRI HOTEL, KELOWNA, B.C.

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### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

#### Present

Emerita  
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  
Engineers & Geoscientists BC  
Interior Health Authority  
Irrigation Industry Association of BC  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program  
Okanagan College  
Regional District of North Okanagan  
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn  
Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Assoc.  
UBC Okanagan

Denise Neilsen, Chair  
Hans Buchler  
Lee Hesketh & Keith Manders  
Glen Lucas  
Doug Geller  
Lorne Davies  
Dwayne Meredith  
Ed Hoppe  
Mike Nolan  
Rob Birtles  
Bruce Naka & Ted van der Gulik  
Andrew Petersen  
Scott Boswell  
Allison O'Neill  
Renee Clark  
Ted Swab  
Glenn Mandziuk  
Bernie Bauer & Craig Nichol

#### Regrets

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada  
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 Indian Band  
Regional District of Central Okanagan  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen  
Water Supply Association of BC

Kirsten Hannam / Tom Forge  
Ed Stranks  
Russel White/Chris Doyle  
Doug Edwards  
Robert Warner  
Lora Nield  
Tim Isaac  
Danika Dudzik  
Zoe Kirk/Evelyn Reichert  
Patti Meager

### STAFF

OBWB, Executive Director  
OBWB, Water Stewardship Director  
OBWB, Communications Director  
OBWB, Operations and Grants Manager

Anna Warwick Sears  
Nelson Jatel  
Corinne Jackson  
James Littley

### GUESTS

AM 1150 News Kelowna  
Associated Environmental  
District of Summerland  
Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources  
Orchardist  
UBCO  
UBCO  
UBCO  
UBCO  
Watt Environmental Consulting  
Westcoast CED Consulting

Darryl Arsenault  
Lorraine Bennest  
Scott Smith  
Therese Washtock  
Tom Siddon  
Phil Johnson  
Jeremy Fyke  
Toni Boot, Mayor  
Kathy Eichenberger  
Adrian Arts  
John Janmaat  
John Wagner  
Marni Turek  
Nargiz Rahimova  
Mark Watt  
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 Bernie Bauer  
Seconded by Allison O'Neill

*"That the agenda for the January 10, 2019 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved with noted date change."  
All in favor. CARRIED*

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Lorne Davies had a correction to his roundtable report as did Danika Dudzik.

Moved by Mike Nolan  
Seconded by Lorne Davies

*"That the minutes from the December 13, 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 the Okanagan LiDAR project. It is expected that the LiDAR data for the lakeshore area of the Okanagan (2017 flooding areas) will be delivered to the Province around Feb 1<sup>st</sup> and then to local governments mid-Feb. The remainder of the data will be available towards the end of February.

b) Sub-committee updates:

Dams & Reservoirs (Bernie Bauer) – the committee has completed a SWOT analysis and is taking some time making sense of the information and categorize and order it in some way so they can present the information. The group is also working on finalizing its workplan.

Irrigation (Bruce Naka) – the group met this morning. They continue to look at and work with the City of Kelowna and their landscape irrigation template. The committee is in the process of developing a new tool kit for landscape. They have made some good direction for moving forward.

Source Water Protection (Renee Clark) – the committee met yesterday by phone. They have four face-to-face meetings scheduled as well as monthly calls. They have completed their workplan and have three major outcomes: 1) recommendations for accessible source water protection, knowledge and resources; 2) recommendations for collaborative and coordinated source protection planning; and 3) recommendations for reliable funding for source

water protection programs. Team members have been signing up for each of these areas. She will have more of an update on the group's progress next meeting. They are working towards having a statement paper on source protection and how provincial/local/water suppliers interact in watershed protection.

Policy (Craig Nichol/Rob Birtles) – the committee has been doing some work in two sub-committee areas including environmental flow needs and UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). They haven't advanced much since December. In terms of the ground water sub-committee, there is no indication that the government is willing to reconsider the deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup> for GW applications. The source water protection toolkit has been introduced to two committees (source water protection and policy committee). They are looking at having the project charter available for the Council's consideration in a couple of months. There is an Ag water reserve component of the policy committee that Bob Hrasko, Hans Buchler, and Denise Neilsen are part of and they will be looking at the issue of Ag water reserves.

Flood Protection (Scott Boswell) – Nelson, Anna and Scott met with Jeanelle Taylor about setting up a workshop to discuss all of the different uses of LiDAR and they will be coordinating who will be invited. More information will be sent out.

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

The OBWB did not meet in January.

6. **COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY, Kathy Eichenberger (EMPR)**

Ms. Eichenberger is the executive director of the Columbia River Review for the Province of BC. She is a hydraulic engineer by profession and has led numerous environmental, social and economic assessments of major projects throughout BC. Ms. Eichenberger provided a review of the Columbia River Treaty which was first signed in 1961 and then ratified in 1964. The CRT had two main purposes: flood mitigation and power generation. The current deal expires in 2024, but might continue indefinitely or until a new agreement is signed or one party gives 10-years notice to opt out. Talks are currently ongoing with the US side to modernize and update the treaty. To date, 4 sessions have been held along with a series of community meetings to provide an update on negotiations, a summary of work being done to prepare for negotiations, a review of the input during the province's 2012-13 public consultation, and a discussion on priority issues that should be included in treaty negotiations. The next round of

meetings will take place in February.

## 7. **MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE**

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

- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): spoke about the two major hydrology projects that have been started. First is the floodplain mapping of the OK mainstem Lakes and second is the Okanagan hydrology modeling project, providing detailed analysis of 19 sub-basins in lower valley-bottom lakes. Both of these projects will be utilizing the new LiDAR data. Mr. Jatel thanked Ms. Eichenberger for an amazing presentation. Ms. Garcia asked that the group be reminded they are moving towards a Sustainable Water Strategy 2.0. The next round of drafts will be presented to Council at an upcoming meeting.
- Mr. van der Gulik (IIABC): spoke about the Ag Water License calculator and the potential for stream layers being added to the tool that will show all of the streams and different types of water courses for the Fraser Valley. He is waiting to see how it will work and if it is working well, maybe it will be something the Okanagan can add to the tool.
- Mr. Bauer (UBCO): pass
- Mr. Petersen (MAG): there has been a lot of work around livestock watering and other policy work. The Pacific Ag show is at the end of the month and he will be doing a presentation on well licensing. He will be at the RDSO well licensing workshop. The workshop is already full.
- Mr. Arsenault (guest): he is a director of BC Lakes Stewardship Society. The group has been dormant for the few years but recently received some funding and are getting the program up and running again. They promote clean, healthy lakes in BC. The BCLSS LakeKeepers committee have created the LakeKeepers manual, a lakeshore resident's guide to the stewardship and monitoring of lakes which will be available soon.
- Mr. Wagner (guest): he is working on research on water at UBCO. He is involved in a Kelowna Floodplain project looking at water issues in the valley with the goal to make it a public exhibition in a few years. It is a follow up on the social life of water exhibition.
- Mr. Siddon (guest): complimented the Council on their continued good work. He enjoyed the CRT presentation.
- Mr. Naka (IIABC): The IIA has worked really hard with their certification programs to foster efficient irrigation and the interior is now working on promoting newer irrigation scheduling tools.
- Ms. Boot (Mayor, Summerland): thanked the OWSC for the invitation to attend the meeting. She really enjoyed the CRT presentation.
- Mr. Nichol (UBCO): pass
- Ms. Bennest (guest): pass
- Ms. Washtock (guest): noted how great the CRT presentation was.
- Dr. Sears (OBWB): looking forward to a new year with a great new Board. Board training is ongoing. She will be going out to the RD Boards and talking about OBWB and the OWSC. Staff is working hard on a number of projects. She is looking at the next big projects and grant funding.
- Mr. Meredith (CWRA): pass
- Mr. Nolan (EGBC): Water Management and Climate Change workshop on Jan 28<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Simonovic. WSABC is having a 2-day planning session and they are contemplating their future. Mr. Nolan urged Council members to give some thought to where they see WSABC providing value and sending Mr. Hrasko an email about it.
- Ms. Turek (guest): they have been working on their programs and they have been developing a website: [watersheds.ok.ubc.ca](http://watersheds.ok.ubc.ca) in order to make sure knowledge is accessible. They are also developing a website for their emerging water research network. It will be [water.ok.ubc.ca](http://water.ok.ubc.ca).
- Mr. Swab (SOFA): some licenses have been using LiDAR for the last 6 or so years and he is interested in the overlap possibilities. There has been talk about a forestry presentation sometime around October. He would be interested in any ideas that the Council would like to see. They could even look at a field tour.
- Mr. Arts (guest): the BC Fruit Growers AGM is Feb 12 & 13 in Penticton. Feb 22 is the BC Tree Fruit Horticultural symposium. This past month he has spent 6hrs on a webinar/digital conference on cannabis. There were 4 or 5 municipalities from the lower mainland talking about how the majority of their pepper greenhouse crops are being converted to cannabis. They are still trying to figure out the water codes and regulations for these operations.
- Mr. Hesketh (BCCA): discussed the potential impact of cannabis operation in Lumby and the large facility being built. He wonders about the location of these large facilities in terms of the influence on a community due to things like light pollution. He also wonders if it is a boom and bust industry and if so, what happens to all the large facilities that have been built and then sit empty. This affects the community long term. There needs to be some answers on this and some leadership from the province and the municipalities.

- Mr. Manders (BCCA): pass
- Mr. Geller (BCGWA): upcoming annual conference in Langley. BCGWA also wrote the province about the upcoming GW licensing deadline and the response back has been similar to what others are reporting. With regards to cannabis, the question exists as to what is agriculture and what is industry. When it comes to the WSA and getting a water license for a cannabis facility it is classified as an industrial water use and the sub use is greenhouse/nursery.
- Ms. Clark (RDNO): they are also dealing with a lot of cannabis applications. The water utility has been brought in to determine water usage. They are working on a climate change strategy. On January 23, they are hosting 3 sessions on GW licensing. The Southern Interior Silviculture Committee is hosting a workshop on Jan 22-23 and she will be speaking on watersheds and water as one of the values of watersheds. They have finished their application for wildfire mitigation for the Duteau watershed. They are waiting to hear back if they will receive funding.
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): the BC Chapter of the Wildlife Society is hosting their first annual conference and workshop March 1-3 in Kelowna. The Fraser Watershed Initiative is holding a regional conference in Kamloops on April 24-25.
- Mr. Smith (guest): he is working with Renee's group on source water protection and specifically around the objective of why we don't see more implementation of source water protection plans. He is also working on updating soil information used to drive the water demand model.
- Mr. Buchler (BCAC): BCAC is becoming involved in a public trust program spearheaded by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.
- Ms. Rahimova (UBCO): pass

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

**8. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Neilsen reminded the Council to take a look at the Sustainable Water Strategy draft sent out by Kellie Garcia. She is asking that Council members make comments, changes and suggestions. Kellie will be updating the SWS to reflect the feedback garnered. Ms. Neilsen the OWSC members and guests for their attendance.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the OWSC will be Thurs., February 14, 2019 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 Renee Clark**

***"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of January 10, 2019 be adjourned."***

**CARRIED**

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**Chair**

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**Executive Director**