

# OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD THURSDAY, February 14, 2019, AT  
COAST CAPRI HOTEL, KELOWNA, B.C.

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## COUNCIL MEMBERS:

### Present

Emeritus

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

BC Agriculture Council

BC Fruit Growers Association

BC Ground Water Association

BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8

Canadian Water Resources Association

City of Kelowna

Engineers & Geoscientists BC

Irrigation Industry Association of BC

Ministry of Agriculture

Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program

Okanagan Indian Band

Regional District of Central Okanagan

Regional District of North Okanagan

Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

UBC Okanagan

Denise Neilsen, Chair

Kirsten Hannam

Hans Buchler

Glen Lucas

Doug Geller

Lorne Davies

Brian Guy

Rod MacLean

Don Dobson

Bruce Naka & Ted van der Gulik

Andrew Petersen

Scott Boswell

Tim Isaac

Danika Dudzik

Renee Clark

Zoe Kirk/Evelyn Reichert

Bernie Bauer & Craig Nichol

### Regrets

BC Cattlemen's Association

City of Vernon

Environment and Climate Change Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Interior Health Authority

Ministry of FLNRORD (Resource Mgmt)

Min of Forests, Lands, Nat. Res. Ops. & Rural Devt (Fish/Wildlife)

Okanagan College

Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn

Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Assoc.

Water Supply Association of BC

Lee Hesketh & Keith Manders

Ed Stranks

Dave Hutchinson

Doug Edwards

Rob Birtles

Robert Warner

Lora Nield

Allison O'Neill

Ted Swab

Glenn Mandziuk

Dawn Williams

## STAFF

OBWB, Executive Director

OBWB, Water Stewardship Director

OBWB, Communications Director

OBWB, Operations and Grants Manager

OBWB

Anna Warwick Sears

Nelson Jatel

Corinne Jackson

James Littley

Stefanie Wenker

## GUESTS

UBC Okanagan

UBC Okanagan

Orchardist

UBCO

UBCO

Marni Turek

Grace Fan

Scott Smith

Adrian Arts

John Janmaat

Nargiz Rahimova

Nicole Louiseire

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  
Seconded by

*"That the agenda for the February 14, 2019 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved with noted date change."  
All in favor. CARRIED*

3. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Denise Neilsen had minor changes.

Moved by  
Seconded by

*"That the minutes from the January 10, 2019 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved with noted changes."  
All in favor. CARRIED*

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

a) Sub-committee updates:

Policy committee (Brian Guy):

Engaged in 6-7 areas, with movement happening in every area. Following up with ONA on EFN conference proceeds to create a concept of water sustainability planning for the Okanagan. Another area is working on advice to OBWB on how to help implement the provincial agenda under UNDRIP. Rob Birtles continues working on toolkit for source water protection; committee also looked into specific issues related to data management that committee can help with by providing the insight.

Source water protection committee (Renee Clark):

The group is looking at 4 outcomes:

(i) Summarize knowledge and resources to share with people; (ii) Collaboration and coordination in source protection planning; (iii) Sustainable funding or source protection planning; (iv) White paper looking at a statement about watershed protection from Okanagan basin perspective. Three groups work will report in April. Committee is also aware and supportive of Rob's work on toolkit.

Flood and drought planning committee (Scott Boswell):

Event on March 4<sup>th</sup> in Capri Hotel on different users of LiDAR. Invitation will be send tomorrow and organizers hope to host 60 people.

Irrigation Management Committee (Bruce Naka / Ted van der Gulik):

Had no meeting this month. Will be hosting a training session for irrigation managers on March 13<sup>th</sup> in Vernon (Vernon Lodge). Registration is limited to 40 people through IIABC or email Jen Miles. If needed, can organize another workshop at different location

and extend the content to include landscapers.

Dams and reservoirs committee (Bernie Bauer):

Finalized group's work plan and will forward it to Denise shortly. Committee is hoping to develop a white paper focused on broader overview of issues over the history; in November conducted SWOT analysis. Planning to scope out several issues that will be consequently passed to a policy committee to work out possible policy recommendations. Hope to develop web-site with useful resources and anyone who has any documents pertaining to dams & reservoirs was encouraged to send them to Bernie Bauer or Bob Hrasko. During summer committee will also develop Q&A and factsheets with quick summaries including number of dams, classifications etc.

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

Dr. Warwick Sears – second meeting with a new Board and still sharing with new members different areas of activities. One of the things presented was few different areas related to flood risk reduction; Anna will be talking about Okanagan flood projects at Southern Interior Local Governance Association (SILGA) AGM and Convention in May. She also attended workshop by ONA on "Flood and debris flow resilience project" attended by a broad range of people. Lots of different information came out as a result of the project that will inform many projects in the future.

Okanagan LiDAR project continues and about 80% of work will be delivered shortly; about 20% will be delivered in summer.

Will be reviewing sewage facilities grants program, looking at gaps and areas that are currently not on community sewer. In general, the goal is to improve land use policies that affect everyone as well as improve water quality in lakes, streams and groundwater.

Corinne Jackson presented on final reports about Make Water Work and Don't Move a Mussel campaigns. Received a lot of letters, mostly from the Province, updating on the inspections outcomes. Kellie presented on agricultural water supply communication project. Received two responses back from government regarding the Water Sustainability Act, mostly related to groundwater licensing and exploring the opportunities for partnerships..

6. **OKANAGAN SUSTAINABLE WATER STRATEGY 2019 – working session facilitated by Kellie Garcia (OBWB)**

Kellie started with quick overview, presented with background info, and explained the purpose and content for breakout sessions.

She reviewed a history of engaging with WSC members that included survey in March 2017,

working session in January 2018, feedback on first draft in December 2018, 7 editorial meetings. She received feedback from 30 people after first draft was distributed and incorporated most of the comments. She also engaged with the experts in various areas as needed to finalize the strategy.

Members and guests were organized around 6 tables, 5-6 people per table. They were given an hour to discuss actions, record feedback and pass their recommendations back to Kellie. People were requested to look critically at actions and provide an insight on their number and relevance – some actions can be potentially combined or eliminated altogether.

Following the breakout sessions members were offered an opportunity to comment on strategy format and content. Members pointed out to actions / concepts that needed further refinement to understand whom they address to. Also, some actions were carried forward from previous version and might be partially completed. Distinguishing between previous and new actions might be helpful. Implementing the strategy is a community effort, wherein each stakeholder is committing to take an action in the area where they have a capacity or resources. It is necessary to restate once again that responsibility to implement the strategy does not lie solely with the OBWB or WSC.

Finally, members were offered an opportunity to provide their feedback on engagement process. If for some reason anyone felt that engagement was not complete or meaningful, they were requested to connect with Kellie. If organizations need more time to review and raise specific questions, formal requests to postpone can be accommodated. During March meeting people will be provided an opportunity to provide additional feedback. Everyone was encouraged to discuss the content with their relevant organization before March meeting. Kellie will need another two weeks to work out the updated version and will reach out to some members for clarifications, as needed, prior to releasing the final draft in April.

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

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

- Mr. Petersen (MAG): On February 28<sup>th</sup> the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation is being replaced with the Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice. The implication might be that every dairy operation and farm will be required to develop a nutrient management plan. It is a big change and people still need to understand

the implications. The groundwater licensing transition period ends in two weeks and everyone is waiting to hear whether the period will be extended. On March 13<sup>th</sup> Andrew gave a live presentation to BC Fruit Growers Association as well as two weeks ago at Pacific Agricultural Show in Abbotsford.

- Mr. Lucas (BC Fruit Growers Association) – had a meeting in Penticton; fruit growers, apple in particular, concerned about accessibility to water supply and pricing. Another issue they are looking at is reintroduction of Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) that was originated in 1930s, during drought, with the purpose to increase water supply for farming in Western Canada. It was cancelled 5 years ago but growers would like to see it re-introduced considering the frequency of droughts.
- Mr. Naka (IIABC): referred to the article in “Irrigation today” about irrigation management and efficiency. Specifically it was about irrigation systems maintenance, setting up schedules, education, training, consultation, and assessment – a lot of that is what we are trying to achieve in our work here.
- Mr. Geller (BCGWA): pass
- Ms. Wenker (OBWB): Water supply communication tool – had piloted 2 suppliers last year and this year expanded to 10 – funded by OBWB and Climate Action Initiative; spreading the work to cover more suppliers.
- Ms. Kirk (RDSO): had well licensing workshop on January 31<sup>st</sup> – it very well attended both by regulators and producers (over 30 producers). Electoral area C near Oliver still under a lot of pressure from last year's flooding – ongoing works in that area. Hoping to have emergency operations ready by March 15<sup>th</sup> this year. Improving water use bylaws for water restrictions regulations to be more aligned with the rest of the valley. Places several grant application for upgrading smaller water systems; 2-3 irrigation districts that look into handing themselves to RDSO. Co-applicants with PIB grant for water quality improvement – to add traditional knowledge to the science. In the past had a successful collaboration on cottonwood project. Homeowner guide ‘Building climate resilience in the Okanagan’ funded by the Real Estate Foundation is almost ready to go to the press. Knowledge is transferable and is a useful tool for homeowners to understand what it is like to live in the Okanagan. Continue working on 3 projects under Climate Action Initiative; producer wildlife and flood preparedness project; Okanagan Invasive species online ([www.oiso.ca](http://www.oiso.ca)) expanded

to include more species.

- Ms. Riechert (RDSO): retiring from RDOS end of March. Finalizing projects including issues of zoning regulations on Osoyoos Lake – will be holding public information session in March.
- Dr. Bauer (OBCO): Marni is organizing watershed field trip – will report next time. In past 3 years he was involved in project evaluating turbidity effects from ATV crossing in small streams near Postill Lake (Funded by FLNRO and OBWB). Final report will be issued end of March.
- Ms. Dudzik (RDCO): LiDAR and floodplain management planning collaboratively with OCCP.
- Mr. Boswell (OCCP): Kalamalka lake boat impact study – reached out to municipalities to collect their feedback and coming back with recommendations in the next 6 weeks.
- Mr. Davies (BCWF): spoke about the role late Rick Simpson played in enhancing fisheries in the Okanagan, strengthening relationships with the Okanagan First Nations and raising the awareness about fisheries value.
- Ms. Garcia (OBWB): working on Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy.
- Ms. Johnson (OBWB): both report on Make Water Work (MWW) and Don't Move a Mussel (DMM) delivered to water board. MWW program provides local government with matching funds – last year's campaign valued to about \$83,000; Don's Move a Mussel – close to \$95,000; Web-site traffic increased by 43% for MWW and 25% for DMM. Company hired to facilitate focus groups for both campaigns– results used to improve campaigns. Board approved hiring contractors to help implement campaigns in 2019. Canada Water Week runs through March 18-23 – screening “Beyond climate” on March 7<sup>th</sup> followed by panel discussion with David Suzuki – tickets on sale and selling out quickly (tickets on Eventbrite). ONA water forum takes place on March 22<sup>nd</sup> (Peachland Watershed tour) (more info on Ok Waterwise website).
- Ms. Clark (RDNO): Last update on snowpack at three courses – at 83-86%; next reading on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioned first UV water treatment plant using UV disinfection instead of filtering at Duteau Creek; preparing grant application under OBWB water quality and conservation program (supporting 8 applications). Groundwater workshop took place on January 23<sup>rd</sup> – well attended.
- Ms. Rahimova (UBCO): pass
- Ms. Fan (UBCO): Requested more information on organizers of Social Life of Water Exhibition.
- Dr. Janmaat (UBCO): ACARN planning climate

education program as a series of session starting on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Sessions will be live-streaming. Will send posters to James to circulate.

- Mr. Dobson (EGBC): was busy working on flood and drought recovery in southern interior in past 2 years.
- Mr. MacLean (City of Kelowna): design operations and closure plan for landfill – 9 years left and we are concerned about long-term stormwater management. Another project is a proposal for water meter reading system – process/technology that will be used in the next 20 years. Pilot project on the way. After yet replacement will be made within the next 6 years. They also plan to make all their time series data available and together with Nelson and RDCO are looking at cloud-based system to share data from 19 water stations around the city.
- Mr. Littley (OBWB): WCQI grants deadline is Feb 28<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.
- Ms. Hannam (AAFC): partnering with UBCO colleagues on proposal to Farm Adaptation Innovator Program for a study with several fruit growers on the utility and effect of post-harvest irrigation deficiency approach.
- Mr. Jatel (OBWB): working on several projects including 200 sections of Okanagan river south of Okanagan lake; hydrology modeling being done by Associated Engineering on 19 streams working closely with North West Hydraulics on Okanagan mainstem mapping hydrology project; LiDAR data will be used as an input.
- Dr. Sears (OBWB): email from GeoBC confirming that LiDAR data for lakeshore completed. Data will be available to local government and can be accessed by any organization, including researchers, consultants who do flood mapping etc. Board and WSC joint meeting will take place first Tuesday in May where we will discuss 5 year strategic plan for the Okanagan Basin Water Board.
- Dr. Guy (CWRA): CWRA BC Branch seminars on flooding and stormwater management in Vancouver (info on web-site); 2019 National Conference will take place in Colinwood, Ontario in May (see web-site)

#### 8. CHAIR REPORT

Appreciates member response proving feedback on Sustainable Water Strategy, it was amazing engagement process.

Unusual cold period can potentially affect fruit growers – there might be some bud damage. It is an example of how climate change influences our weather.

#### 9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the OWSC will be Thurs., March 14, 2019 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm at the

Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna.

**CARRIED**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Moved by**

*“That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of February 14, 2019 be adjourned.”*

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Chair

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Executive Director