

**OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD AND
OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING HELD TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019, AT
FOUR POINTS SHERATON, KELOWNA, B.C.**

PRESENT

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD:

Chair Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Vice-Chair Cindy Fortin	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Bob Fleming	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Victor Cumming	Regional District North Okanagan
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Colin Basran	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Toni Boot	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Knodel	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Denise Neilsen	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL:

Kirsten Hannam	Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Hans Buchler	BC Agriculture Council
Marta Green	BC Ground Water Association
Brian Guy	Canadian Water Resources Association
Mike Nolan	Engineers & Geoscientists BC
Doug Lundquist	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Rob Birtles	Interior Health Authority
Bruce Naka & Ted van der Gulik	Irrigation Industry Association of BC
Scott Boswell	Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Danika Dudzik	Regional District of Central Okanagan
Renee Clark	Regional District of North Okanagan
Zoe Kirk/Evelyn Reichert	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

OBWB STAFF:

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
Kellie Garcia	Policy and Planning Specialist
Stefanie Wenker	Water Demand Model Specialist
Karen Christensen	Communications and Outreach Coordinator

GUESTS:

Marni Turek	UBC Okanagan
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REGRETS

OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD:

Director Lisa Wilson

Okanagan Nation Alliance

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL:

Glen Lucas

Lee Hesketh

Lorne Davies

Rod MacLean

Doug Edwards

Andrew Petersen

Lora Nield

Ray Crampton

Allison O'Neill

Tim Isaac

Ted Swab

Ellen Walker-Matthews

Dawn Williams

Bernie Bauer

Ed Stranks

BC Fruit Growers Association

BC Cattlemen's Association

BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8

City of Kelowna

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Ministry of Agriculture

Min of FLNRORD (Fish & Wildlife)

Ministry of FLNRORD (Resource Mgmt)

Okanagan College

Okanagan Indian Band

Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Assn

Thompson-Okanagan Tourism Assoc.

Water Supply Association of BC

UBC Okanagan

City of Vernon

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

OBWB Chair Sue McKortoff began the meeting at 11:00 am by welcoming attendees and respectfully acknowledging that the meeting was taking place in the traditional and unceded territory of the Okanagan Nation. OWSC Chair Denise Neilsen followed with opening remarks about the important work of the Water Stewardship Council and its value to the OBWB.

2. OWSC PRESENTATIONS

Presentations were provided to share the work being completed by the Dams and Reservoirs, Policy, Irrigation Management, Source Protection and Flood and Drought Planning committees.

2.1 Mike Nolan – Dams and Reservoirs Committee

The Dams and Reservoirs Committee is co-chaired by Bernie Bauer and Bob Hrasko. Its members are Don Dobson, Shaun Reimer, Toby Pike, Alf Leake, Dwayne Tannant, Tricia Brett, Rod MacLean, Mike Nolan, Mike Noseworthy, and Hans Buchler. The committee is working to address several issues facing dams and reservoir management, including: risk management practices, public access, climate change impacts, aging dam infrastructure, intensified land use within dam breach inundation areas, dam maintenance and safety review standards, potential for expanding storage, and potential for coordinated reservoir management for flood protection and flood management. They are preparing a white paper to investigate these issues and recommend solutions.

2.2. Dr. Brian Guy – Policy Committee

The Policy Committee is chaired by Dr. Brian Guy. Its members are Bernie Bauer, Denise Neilsen, Rob Birtles, Craig Nichol, Marta Green, Ward van Proosdij, Bob Hrasko, Hans Buchler, and Kellie Garcia. The committee assists the OBWB to respond to requests for input from senior government on policy and legal issues and proactively pursues opportunities to influence upcoming legislation, policies and practices relevant to Okanagan water. The committee is currently working on seven issues:

- 1) providing advice to OBWB and local government on implementing UNDRIP,
- 2) providing advice to the Province regarding groundwater licensing,
- 3) preparing a Source Protection Toolkit (in collaboration with the Source Protection Committee),
- 4) helping to determine the next steps in the Okanagan environmental flow needs project,
- 5) looking into the feasibility of an Okanagan Water Plan;
- 6) exploring the feasibility of an agricultural water reserve under the Water Sustainability Act; and
- 7) investigating ways to improve data management and distribution.

2.3. Bruce Naka – Irrigation Management Committee

The Irrigation Management Committee is co-chaired by Ted van der Gulik and Bruce Naka. Its members are Andrew Petersen, Hans Buchler, Adrian Arts, Glen Lucas, Denise Neilsen, Regan Hyde, and Ed Hoppe. The committee is working on initiatives to improve irrigation efficiency to maintain crop production and prepare for the impacts of climate change and to examine mechanisms to prevent water suppliers from reallocating agriculture water for other municipal requirements as our communities continue to grow. They are providing education and training forums for farmers and irrigation management personnel; working with the City of Kelowna and other municipalities to develop a standard landscape bylaw for the Okanagan; developing a landscape scheduling calculator specific to the Okanagan; and working with other groups towards the installation of more weather stations that will be linked to the Farmwest website.

2.4 Renee Clark – Source Protection Committee

The Source Protection Committee is co-chaired by Renee Clark and Marni Turek. Committee members are Lorne Davies, Don Dobson, Patti Meger, Heather Larratt, Jen Anderson, Scott Smith, Rob Birtles, and Nicole Penner. The committee is working towards three outcomes: 1) accessible source protection knowledge and resources, 2) collaborative and coordinated source protection planning, and 3) reliable funding for source protection programs. The committee is helping to develop a source protection toolkit, is looking at different source protection funding models, and is working on a source protection statement or policy for the OBWB board, among other initiatives.

2.5 Scott Boswell – Flood and Drought Planning Committee

The Flood and Drought Planning Committee is co-chaired by Scott Boswell and Janelle Taylor. Committee members are Lorne Davies, Danika Dudzik, Rob Miles, Luke Dempsey and Kellie Garcia. The objectives of the committee include: improving communication of flood and drought issues, identifying funding opportunities to support drought and flood planning, and supporting the development of consistent drought and flood management plans throughout the region. The committee has mainly been supporting the OBWB, RDCO and other local governments in the LIDAR data collection project, including hosting a workshop to raise awareness about the project and showcase practical examples of how LIDAR is transforming land use and resource planning, management, and research.

3. STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

In the afternoon, Ms. Garcia and Dr. Warwick Sears facilitated a two-hour session with board and council to update the OBWB's strategic plan. The main objectives of the session were to identify the top water issues for the OBWB to focus on and review and to update the long-term goals and sub goals in the current (2014-2019) strategic plan in view of those issues. The session began with a presentation by Dr. Warwick Sears to set the stage and walk you through the 2014-2019 strategic plan. This was followed by a plenary discussion to confirm the top water issues that the OBWB should focus on. The board and council were then directed to divide themselves into four groups to discuss the goals and sub goals in the current strategic plan.