

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD December 10th, 2020,
VIRTUALLY THROUGH THE ZOOM PLATFORM

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

Emeritus, Chair	Denise Neilsen
BC Ground Water Association	Marta Green (Alt)
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8	Lorne Davies
Regional District of Central Okanagan	Brittany Lange
Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District	Tony Zanotto
Canadian Water Resources Association	Brian Guy
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada	Kirsten Hannam
UBC Okanagan	Bernard Bauer
City of Kelowna	Rod MacLean
Okanagan College	Rob St. Onge
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen	Zoe Kirk

OBWB:

Director	Doug Holmes (Alt)
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STAFF:

OBWB, Office and Grants Manager	James Littley
OBWB, Policy and Planning Specialist	Kellie Garcia
OBWB, Special Projects Coordinator	Carolina Restrepo
OBWB, Executive Director	Anna Warwick Sears
OBWB, Water Stewardship Director	Nelson Jatel
OBWB, Communications Director	Corinne Jackson
OBWB, Technical Writer and Researcher	Farah Kanani

GUESTS:

Independent	Adrian Arts
Independent	Renee Clark
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP)	Scott Boswell
OCCP	Chery Demulder
Eternal Consultants	Scott Smith
UBCO (Student)	Marni Turek
BC Agriculture Council	Hans Buchler
Northwest Hydraulic Consultants	Piotr Kuras
Fruit Grower (Independent)	Lorraine Bennest
Irrigation Industry Association BC	Bruce Naka
Independent	Glenn Sinclair
Country Life in BC	Tom Walker
Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen	Doug Holmes
Regional District of North Okanagan	Tricia Brett
UBCO	Mathieu Bourbonnais
Water Supply Association BC	Patti Meger
Regional District of Kootenay Boundary	Kristina Anderson
Water Supply Association of BC	Bob Hrasko
South Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Program	Sophie Fillion
Foresight	Jason Jones
Okanagan Nation Alliance Fisheries Department	Karilyn Alex
Fruit Grower (Independent)	Katie Sardinha
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Jeremy Fyke
UBCO	Grace Fan
BC Cattlemen	Keith Manders
National Hydrological Services	David Hutchinson
UBCO (Student)	Elizabeth Houghton

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Denise called the Zoom meeting to order at 1:03 pm by welcoming members and guests and acknowledging that we are meeting on the unceded territory of the syilx people, the original inhabitants of the Okanagan. Introductions commenced around the table. This is the third Zoom meeting of the OWSC.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Agenda was approved as presented.

Moved by: Zoe Kirk

Seconded by: Brian Guy

***“That the agenda for the December 10th, 2020 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”
No objections.***

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by: Scott Boswell

Seconded by: Bernard Bauer

***“That the minutes from the November 12th, 2020 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”
No objections.***

4. BUSINESS ARISING (from previous meeting):

- a) Sub-committee updates
- b) Source Protection (NEW recommendations)

a) Sub-committee updates

Policy committee (Brian Guy):

Reported last month on contribution to the provincial climate adaptation strategy – Climate Ready. OBWB sent a response to their presentation they had given to us last month. Document was intended to be released in December but the election got in the way which is a province wide climate resilience plan.

Secondly, working on couple of initiatives under the data sub-committee. Nelson is working on a white paper on state of understanding of availability and use of remote sensing information in the Okanagan and the second is the initiative to try and preserve the datasets of retiring government researchers.

Third item is about the Canada Water Agency – new yet

to be formed federal agency. It was announced in the throne speech last January and they have been engaged

in a preliminary approach to gain insights from the public and organizations. We made a contribution to that effort and got lots of feedback. This morning they hosted a webinar to summarize what feedback they received during that preliminary term of consultation, followed by 5 panelists each with a different perspective on the benefits of a CWA from dealing with climate change and dealing with all sorts of water issues to advancing the cause of reconciliation, helping improve health, and helping with community to food production both domestically and internationally. It was a really well organized and presented webinar.

The summary concept was that we need a CWA and we need it now. It needs to be strong and well-funded. It’s a necessary but sufficient pre-condition for a modern 21st Century federal water policy. Hopeful and inspirational. The next steps are to release a discussion paper on Dec 17th – more extensive and public engagement program that will start in January. We should continue our involvement in the next phase of engagement. I haven’t talked about this what our role might take with Anna, Nelson and Denise but also get council involved in this. Such a significant opportunity for Canada and getting the entire council involved would be very beneficial. Sometimes there isn’t enough time to have full council involved but this is one issue that is so significant that I think it would be worthwhile. It seems to have momentum, strong interest across the country and the liberal government seems to be supporting this – the parliamentary secretary Terry Duguid to the Minister of ECCC spoke of the top-down commitment of this initiative. All seems promising.

Anna: Presentation didn’t give enough insight into what the agency is going to be but some good suggestions for what it could be or should be.

Flood and Drought Management committee (Scott Boswell):

Since our last meeting, we have met once to discuss the development of our online sessions to raise the awareness of the impact of flooding – what communities are doing to prepare for flooding and the ecological considerations that need to be incorporated. Our target audience was professionals in the real estate and insurance industries. We reached out to the real estate board and they are very interested in getting involved to develop these sessions – 3 training sessions that

will be starting in February running consecutively every week. Format of 2-3 presenters talking about each of the topics and some Q&A afterwards. Real estate industry is very supportive of this – expecting a high turnout.

Dams and Reservoirs committee (Bernard Bauer):

Submitted our white paper to Nelson just before the last meeting. Working on an appendix to report total storage attached to different licenses.

Agriculture and Water committee (Kirsten Hannam):

Our committee has been busy since the last meeting. We met for a debrief to discuss what we learnt from Jeff's presentation and pulled that information into a letter for the policy committee to get their feedback on how this information could be presented to Ted White by the policy committee in a constructive way. We received great feedback from Bernie Bauer and Rob Brittles and Brian as well who made an interesting point: that a lot of this information or letters have been submitted from Anna to many ministers within the provincial government regarding the groundwater licensing issue and implementation of the WSA and it led to a great discussion with our committee today.

We realize that there are so many issues on the use of the agricultural water calculator and the idea of licensing to crop vs. licensing to ground. Maybe we need to get a better handle as a committee on the actual guidance that is being provided to water authorization officers to help them interpret the WSA when implementing GW licensing or processing GW licensing applications. The next work for our committee will focus on getting better guidance or guidance documentation to assist the GW licensing process for those implementing that into practice.

(b) Source Protection (NEW recommendations) – Renee Clark

In the agenda package you received a brief advocating for enhanced coordination of Okanagan water source protection and a position paper that has actions, backgrounds, and findings. This is something our group has worked on this for about a year and I would like to thank all the committee members at this time for all their time and efforts.

- Term 8 tasks: One – A source Protection Tool Kit (Phase 1 completion Spring 2021); Two – development of a Position Paper on BC and the Okanagan Basin's state of Source Water Protection.
- Reviewed 10 reports from the past 8 years varied from the provincial health officer to

the auditor general. Each member reviewed it and summarized each report and their final recommendation. With that strategy, we came up with the common themes of the report:

- Inter-agency collaboration and improved communication; complex and overlapping legislative framework; need for single oversight/lead agency and defined responsibilities.
- It's really complex the different legislations and how there is no single oversight lead agency and defined responsibilities. Given the complexity of drinking water protection and the challenges faced by the Ministry of Health, it is time for government to clearly articulate roles and ensure the ministry and agencies are held accountable.
- Where do we go next – where does the province stand at this point with many of the papers clearly stating that.
- It is recommended that: the OBWB take a leadership role in advocating for the coordinated and adequately resourced approach necessary to foster effective source water protection in the Okanagan Basin, through taking the following key actions:
 - **Clarify the State of Source Water Protection in BC** – submit a request to the province of BC to provide a progress report on SWP in BC. Should include status of governance, plans, actions and timelines for full implementation of the WSA and Drinking Water Protection Act and their regulations and tools.
 - **Acknowledge Indigenous Values and Commitments to UNDRIP** – SWP planning in the OK Basin must recognize the unceded lands of the Sylix people and the BC Government's commitments to UNDRIP legislation.
 - **Advocate for a lead water agency** – advocate through whatever means available, for the assignment of a lead agency within the province to be responsible for, and coordinate, the integration of governance and hold authority for all aspects of SWP.
 - **Request dedicated resources** – request BC government to support development of a sustainable watershed plan with regard to SWP within the Okanagan Basin.

Denise: Thank you Renee. That's an enormous amount of work your group has done. Who are the requests going to go to?

Renee: There is no lead agency for water so does it go to the Ministry of Forest Lands Natural Resources Operations because they are the group that enact the water sustainability act or maybe together with the Ministry of Health because they are the lead on the drinking water protection.

Tricia: Thanks for that presentation Renee. We haven't discussed the mandate letters that came out from the province and some of the updates on watershed and how that will be looked at by the province. There is the new Minister of State for land and natural resource, they maybe someone we could reach out to – they've been in charge of ministry of environment and climate change strategy and FLNRO to come up with what that would look like.

Anna: It sounds like they might splitting off some of that work from the Forest Lands and Natural Resources Operations in this new Lands and Resource Operations and I would assume that that would be a sensible place for the province to land some of the source protection work.

Brian: First of Renee, this is great work and although short it is packed with great recommendations and work. I was thinking about the timing – it is really good. There is an opportunity to use all the momentum across the country for this new Canada Water Agency and think about parallels with a provincial lead water agency. We have been talking about this in BC as long as I can remember. Opportunity to advocate for something analogous on the provincial level.

Anna: It would be useful for us to network with other people working on watershed work in other parts of the province, particularly on Vancouver Island. They may have insight. Watershed Coalition – organized \$27 M worth of funding and I would guess they would have plans for the new ministry.

Marta: Renee that was great and I like how you did so much research and consolidated and brought the highlights forward. In your work, did you talk about the watershed scale? In your work in the past you have talked about how important is – did you manage to highlight the need for watershed scale?

Renee: I think we are all at different levels. Our source protection tool kit is looking at how we can improve that within the Okanagan Basin. We are really trying to figure out how much further we can go at their own level - to keep going they are going

to have to figure out what they need to keep moving forward with it and most of the time they don't have their own resources and you are in the long haul. if there was a lead agency that we could go to then everybody would have a place to go to with their issues. Interior Health used to have a group of multi-watershed ministries and every time those have started they have failed after about 2 years. This is almost the level above the work I was doing. We found a way to get it going but we need some force to keep everyone motivated.

Marta: As far as the Ministry of Health, I am active on a project reviewing their source protection mandate. Our draft report was just issued last Monday and there is lots of new staff with great new energy and I have got some really good names and Anna and I can provide them to you. You could probably convince someone from Ministry of Health to present in the spring after everything is finalized because they do have to report to some economic committee because of the auditor general report. We came up with a lot of similar recommendations as you.

Renee: Yes that could be great.

5. BOARD REPORT (Anna Warwick Sears):

- We are now moving forward with the gap analysis and recommendation of studies needed to update the Okanagan Lake Regulation System and its operating plan. This is funded by Shaun at the FLNRORD and the OBWB is holding the contract. Brian Guy has been working on this and has assembled an expert team to weigh on it. In parallel process I am working with the Okanagan local governments at the request of the District of Peachland and Regional District of Central Okanagan to have a letter writing campaign to get the province to fund all of the projects that are going to come out from this gap analysis so it is full steam ahead on that.
- There is some funding that is coming up right now for different projects in different communities and if anyone wants information on that please contact myself or Kellie Garcia.
- We shared the Canada Water Agency consultation materials with the Board. Talked about meetings that James Littlely and I had with the people from Shuswap Lake Invasive Aquatic groups. They have found some invasive freshwater clams there in the Shuswap and we wanted to meet and talk about it because it is like dress rehearsal for the invasive mussels. Going to see if we can

work together on the invasive freshwater clam issue but also what the next steps could be e.g. vulnerability analysis and advance planning for the mussels beyond prevention.

- Nelson presented on the updates on the WSC and talked about the updates on the new hydrometric monitoring network surfaces.
- James put forward a number of resolutions related to updates on the terms of reference for the sewage facilities grants. Constantly in an evolving process for updating the policies and fine tuning them and making them more specific because of the imagination and creativity of developers who are finding places of minor vagueness and trying to exploit them.
- Corrine did a couple of very detailed reports on the awareness of local residents on water conservation and invasive mussels. One highlight – water issue that residents were most concerned in the Okanagan was the increase in forest fires due to the dry forests, second was invasive mussels and third was climate change. Forest fires goes without saying because they cause so much destruction, however the invasive mussels and climate change concerns speaks to the outreach we have been able to do in the past years.
- Kellie presented on the Okanagan Collaborative Flood Planning group – we had a good meeting in November. She also talked about the source water protection toolkit which includes tools that can be used here in the Okanagan and can be modified for people in other places.
- Carolina talked about our upcoming Municipals Natural Assets Workshop – with people from local governments and guests from outside the valley - tentative title for this workshop is - ‘Covering our Natural Assets’. She also presented about the next steps for the aquahacking and we have an all-star advisory team on that. Selecting the aquahacking issues for 2021 tomorrow morning.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

Introduction provided by Denise.

Presentation – Karilyn Alex (Okanagan Nation Alliance – Fisheries Department) Trout Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project

- Trout Creek is the third largest lake tributary that is available for spawning habitat. Prior to channelization, in 1937, it was part of the Penticton-Indian band and it was a number of families that lived along there.

- The other thing that has been identified in this area is the loss of cottonwood trees ecosystems. Loss of that ecosystem type that makes it endangered now.
- What we were looking at in specifically this study area is where a lot of the Kokanee once tried to spawn.
- **Current conditions:**
 - Kokanee population has been almost eliminated. Very few returning to the area to spawn as a result of the straightening of the river and a down cut. Not able to retain the smaller sized gravel that the Kokanee prefer.
 - Substrate is too large for spawning.
 - No fish rearing habitat.
 - No riparian habitat. The Okanagan was very well known for having thick overhanging vegetation along the creeks and rivers which probably moderated the temperatures and the fish could live in as it keeps the water cooler and protects it from predators.
 - High water temperatures.
 - Poor water quality.
- The steering committee is aware of this and we have been in conversation with District of Summerland hoping we can get some resolution and they have a number of on-going studies that can help the residents and water quality as well.
- **Need for Restoration:**
 - **Aquatic species:** improve habitat for all native fish species - Kokanee, Rainbow trout, Sockeye, Chinook, Steelhead trout.
 - **Terrestrial species:** improve habitat for Species at Risk and improve riparian and wetland habitat.
 - **Infrastructure:** maintain flood capacity of HWY 97 Bridge and dikes and maintain pedestrian and road access.
- Examples of projects that currently exist in the OK:
 - Okanagan River re-profiled – horizontal changes – adding meanders back.
 - Riffle construction to naturalize flows – vertical changes.
 - Similar solutions could be implemented for Trout Creek.
- **Steering Committee:** representatives from Penticton Indian Band, District of Summerland, BC Parks, ONA, South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Programme, FLNRORD Ecosystems branch, Freshwater Fisheries Society, Engineer advisor, Trout Creek Water Use Plan representative, Agriculture and Agri-foods Research Centre (AARC).

- Trout Creek Restoration Possibility: very conceptual at this stage - primary modelling analysis that shows we could re-meander and setback dikes. We could add riffles without changing any flood capacity and without having any impact upstream or downstream of the reach. We are going into some detailed modelling to provide to the steering committee to get feedback. Need to take it to an engineer for them to create the engineering design.

- **Time Frame/Process:**

- **Planning 2019-2020:** Design criteria, conceptual design (25%), Band Council Resolution, BC Parks approval (Aquatic & Terrestrial inventories).
- **Designs 2020-2021:** Preliminary designs (50%), engineer designs, EPP, permits and approvals (Pre-treatment aquatic & terrestrial monitoring).
- **Ongoing:** TEK meetings, outreach activities, project coordination, administration & funding research.
- **Construction 2021-2022:** safeguard ceremony, construction works and engineering oversight and site revegetation (environmental monitoring).
- **Phased Works 2022-2023:** project effectiveness and evaluation, adaptive management, stability evaluation, planning next phase (Post-treatment aquatic and terrestrial monitoring).

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Scott Boswell: Great presentation. Did you mention the magnitude of the cost for this?

Karilyn: No I did not mention it. In the past 2-3 years we did some preliminary assessments that were done and so far we have had investments of about \$75,000 into the planning of the project. Construction is a little bit hard to tell until the steering committee chooses a design so it could be as high as \$0.5 million or it could be smaller chunks annually e.g. \$100,000. If there is additional funding please let us know. It is always multiple funding sources.

Scott Boswell: Kellie, does this fall under what you have been calling for flood projects or does this not fall outside the scope?

Kellie: I am not sure about that but I will talk to Kari and Anna about it and take a closer look at the criteria. It is a really short time frame for

applying so we will get on that.

Scott Smith: Thanks Kari for that presentation. Is that land provincial parks regulated or somehow managed by the agriculture research station?

Kari: The property to the south and a small portion of the property to the North of the dike are currently owned by BC Parks. There are sections set back from the river which is the research station but all these properties were originally part of the Penticton-Indian Band and were expropriated. All three groups - BC Parks, research station and PIB are working collaboratively on this restoration. Seem to be on a fairly similar page at this point and easier to manage.

Marta: Thanks Kari, that is super exciting. There is an EFN flow along the creek. Do you think the turbidity is only caused by that perpetual slide or could you comment on the EFN and would that also be considered to change?

Kari: We anticipate that the perpetual slide is causing the bulk of what is occurring just because of the timeline of when the slide started and when the Kokanee population have been distracted and the water quality went down. There always is some sort of supplementary water quality that comes all year around but most likely to occur after spring. It is an unknown for us what is causing what. Not very common in the Okanagan to have these natural turbidity issues in the Aug-Sep period when these fall spawners want to be there. Water level is lower so it's not moving as much material. There is some uncertainty around what the main cause is exactly. We have been part of looking at EFN in the creek but that was a desktop exercise but not actual groundwater measurements.

Grace Fan: What type of knowledge was applied?

Kari: The type of traditional ecological knowledge comes from elders and community members who are familiar with the area. We work with the Penticton Indian Band and they do those assessments. Each ecological traditional assessment we do is related to river restoration is very site-specific. I would highly recommend the PIB's natural resource department which has a very strong elders' group and they can be reached directly if you had a specific question or fund a project that has a TEK component.

Bob: Does the flow stay in the oxbow all the time or does it overflow to the oxbow? If it flows into the

oxbow most of the time to the south, do you keep the old channel for the flood flows?

Kari: This is something that the steering committee will have to figure out the benefits and constraints. We have done both where the oxbow is flowing all year around and also where the flow only occurs in the spring and this has very different benefits. It accumulates a different type of vegetation that produces a different kind of bug that those spring feeders would grow twice as big.

Bob: Are you looking at rails in the south?

Kari: We are looking at staying above the highway bridge. At this stage of the project it would be beneficial for us to do a project and see the stability especially as the gravels are going to be accumulating as they come down and now they are being scoured out. Within 20-50 m above the bridge we want the river to be what you currently see it so that we don't have anything impacting it.

8. MEMBER UPDATES:

Andrew P: New mandate under our ministry – new term called restorative agriculture. New addition to our ministry not just food but also fisheries. We will have some responsibilities around wild salmon stocks and restoration. We will have to see how that gets disseminated to us and what our role will be.

Brian G: CWRA has lots of good webinars and seminars and professional courses online.

Bernie B: Exams ongoing and online course delivery.

Brittany L: Starting our flood mitigation planning phase 3 which will start in the new year. Having some conversations with a number of stakeholders on any opportunities to apply for all this funding through NDMP, ARDM and UBCM. We are also exploring the early stages of a regional climate action plan. Going through a community preparedness workshop series with the Fraser Basin Council right now and we have got support of the regional board and regional growth strategy steering committee so that is part of my work plan for 2021.

Bob H: Black Mountain Irrigation Industry turned 100 and had to cancel the celebration due to provincial guidelines – deferred to the spring and a

lot of WSC members will be invited. 130-year history of Eastern Benches of Kelowna released.

Corinne J: Anna referenced the survey that we did and if anyone is interested in learning more about that let me know. They spoke with 500 residents within the Okanagan and talk to them about what water issues is of concern to them and to rate their understanding of these issues.

New this year we looked as SWP and tried to get the start of engagement with these issues because eventually we might want to do an outreach programme to help raise awareness of that. This was a good start to understand where everyone's heads are at. We also did an update on the don't move a muscle make water works campaign and provided wrap up reports for both of those this week. I haven't had a chance to speak to the committee about that for a while. For this campaign we updated the website and created a page called the 'Okanagan's Water Story" and it talks about water in the Okanagan and how it is managed in a way that is understandable to the public because it is a complicated issue especially because it is highly regulated.

The campaign is half funded by the Okanagan Half Waterwise programme and Okanagan Water Utilities and local governments. With a \$52,000 budget and \$57,000 in kind from media partners we delivered a campaign worth \$110,000 this summer. With Don't Move a Mussel we did not have face-to-face outreach this summer because of Covid-19 and this was heavily curtailed. We have developed some best practices and do better next summer.

For the 50th anniversary we had the two online sessions and both are now available on our Youtube channel.

David H: We have begun doing some preliminary site recognizant of gauges in the Okanagan that could be reactivated working with Nelson. Hopefully get one or two gauges installed in the coming year by spring 2021.

Hans B: About a month ago the BC Wine Grape Council launched a certification programme – sustainable wine growing programme, which has very strong water use component if anyone is interested. Quite a bit of interest from industry in getting certified.

James L: Quick reminder that our WCQI

programme is open and deadline is Feb 26th provides up to \$30,000 per project that provides water conservation and quality and improvement.

Jason J: At Foresight we have a lot of accelerators and new companies and keen ideas with some great amazing technology. Complete that gap of getting investment and getting a more of a grassroots approach to the technologies available. Just want to make you all aware of this programme specifically Water Next which we have just launched that specifically targets accelerators that are bringing new and innovative solutions to water-based technology, filtering, and conservation. I will be reaching out to see what ideas you have and bridging that gap.

Jeremy F: I am now at ECCC trying to bridge the gap between science and decision-making.

Kristen H: Mon-Wed this week was the Agriculture and Climate Adaptation Research Network and some great presentations and one that you would be interested was a presentation from Andy Nadler – an assessment of whether data collection across the province and how data access and quality can be improved. For those who are interested in the results and other presentations you can visit the BC ACARN website and all the webinars should be there.

Lorne D: The Kokanee stream and spawning numbers were released and there was 388,000 and that's double from last year. Not sure why but would be interesting to see the conditions that have changed.

Marta: BC Ground Water Association hosted a virtual fall meeting. Update on groundwater licensing and version 2 of the technical assessment guideline to support new GW license applications. Going to change up the communication style with GW. Reinforced the need to submit GW applications during the transitional phase if you are an existing user before March 2021, which if not followed could lead to serious consequences.

Patti M: The Water Supply Association had its AGM and technical sessions on Nov 19th. We have 11 directors now and no vacant positions. Next steps are to debrief and prepare for our spring conference and need to vote in a chair and vice-chair for our upcoming season.

Rod M: Today was budget day.

1. Extension to the water meter programme we have this year, in the last four months we have installed 1869 water heaters, up to 40 water heaters being installed per week - 15% of our total utilities. These are all new generation heaters and we are discovering leaks everywhere we go so we have been working with landowners to identify them and fix them.

2. Area based water plan - city has been working on a strategic plan- we have an update to council. Technical in nature, these topics did move forward into the draft 4020 OCP which includes EFN, critical flow needs and natural asset management. Source water protection is now looked at as a multi-barrier approach.

3. Finally, Mill Creek flood protection is moving into the final design and construction phase – 6 sub-projects lined up. It is difficult to spend \$5 M in flood protection works. Designing flood protection and building it is extremely complicated especially in a city where you are dealing with property owners, crown lands, non-crown lands, road allowances and getting mixed up in all these definitions.

Scott B: Two workshops scheduled for January working with Okanagan Nation Alliance and a 50-member stakeholder group. We have identified a number of barriers and challenges to watershed planning for water quality and environmental protection. Looking at using four different ways to solve the challenges. Hired a consulting team to do key messaging and social media campaign about what we need to do to get lake wakeboard boats on how to behave on Kal Lake - more education is required.

Scott S: Yukon water board is a different entity to the OK water board. Its primary function is water licensing but they currently have some problems around wetlands. Looking to set up a governance model that would allow them to have a technical advisory group. I thought maybe Nelson might be of help with this. Working on contracts in BC developing databases to run the Water Demand Model – almost there. We have seen lately from feedback we are getting some odd outputs looks like land use information is not as accurate.

Sophie F: The programme has been restoring the sustainability and culture programme for the upcoming three years so we will be engaging with growers and ranchers about good practices. Also sitting on the Penticton Creek Restoration initiative and Okanagan River initiative.

Tricia B: In budget season, nothing is approved yet

but one is a project with UBCO on cumulative effects in the watershed – likely be a 4-year project. Ready to issue a contract on our Climate Change Resilience Plan that we will be doing specifically for the RDNO utilities department. Reaching an interesting point in the filtration piloting on Kal lake water – partnering with UBCO on a project related to UV and unfiltered water. In 2021, is a project that we are hoping to work with the Allan Brooks Nature Centre - take some of our water sustainability education planning and give them funding for someone to do that work.

Tony Z: Strong indication in the mandate letters that the big forest lands natural resource operation ministry will be split of into two: 1. Forest and Rural Development, 2. Natural Resource Operations.

Zoe K: Our budget won't be completed until next Thursday. In the midst of doing wrap up reports and grant applications.

Bruce N: One of the struggles that everyone is having, the foundation that we have been able to become a success in the irrigation industry is through our courses and we haven't been able to hold them. Recently we just launched some of our starter courses online which went very well and it's great because it doesn't limit participants.

Nelson: Pre-planning for our new hydrometric service is going well. In the process of doing invites of our first committee meeting which will be in mid-January. It's been great working with the Water

Canada Survey folks and the Okanagan Nation Alliance Fisheries Department. Carolina left early but she asked me to mention we are having our 'Covering Natural Assets' workshop on Jan 13th from 13:00-15:30 pm it will be a virtual event. If interested let us know and we will get you in the wait list.

Chevy D: Special projects coordinator for the OKLRP with the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Programme. This is my second WSC meeting as a guest and I was really intrigued by the Trout Creek Restoration project. Right now we are working on the next steps of the Silk planning process so I will be sending and RSVP.

9. CHAIR REPORT:

See you all in February.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date of the OWSC is to be confirmed for Thursday, February 11th, 2020.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Denise at 3:06 pm.

"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of December 10th be adjourned."

Moved by Bernard Bauer and seconded by Brian Guy.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive Director