

OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

A Technical Advisory Body to the Okanagan Basin Water Board

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD April 8th, 2021, VIRTUALLY THROUGH THE ZOOM PLATFORM

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Present

Chair	Scott Boswell
BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8	Lorne Davies
Canadian Water Resources Association	Brian Guy
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada	Kirsten Hannam
UBC Okanagan	Bernard Bauer
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries	Andrew Petersen
City of Kelowna	Rod MacLean
Independent	Renee Clark
Okanagan College	Allison O’Neill
Regional District of Central Okanagan	Brittany Lange
Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District	Tony Zanutto
Regional District of North Okanagan	Tricia Brett
BC Agriculture Council	Hans Buchler
Emertius, Independent	Denise Neilsen

STAFF:

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

GUESTS:

Larratt Aquatic Consulting Ltd. (LAC)	Heather Larratt
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Jeremy Fyke
BC Fruit Growers Association	Glen Lucas
Foresight/Vertical Motion	Jason Jones
Regional District of Kootenay Boundary	Kristina Anderson
Independent	Glenn Sinclair
MFLNRORD	Hillary Ward
MFLNRORD	Ryan Whitehouse
Gorman Bros.	Randy Hardy
Western Water Associates Ltd.	Doug Geller
Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA)	Mike Overend
MFLNRORD	Sheena Spencer

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Scott called the Zoom meeting to order at 1:04 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 tenth Zoom meeting of the OWSC.

2. RETROSPECTIVE – COUNCIL’S TERM 8 AND 9

Denise covered her time with the council as the chair for terms 8 and 9.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Agenda was approved as presented.

Moved by: Brian Guy

Seconded by: Bernie Bauer

***“That the agenda for the April 8th, 2021 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”
No objections.***

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by: Bernie Bauer

Seconded by: Brian Guy

***“That the minutes from the March 11th, 2021 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved.”
No objections.***

5. BOARD REPORT (Anna Warwick Sears):

- Source water protection report by Renee which included recommendations for the board to advocate to the government.
- Joint OBWB + WSC meeting – encouraging board of directors to go through that report in advance.
- After that delegation, Nelson presented on a datum workshop we had – this is the issue with the flood maps with the LiDAR and we have engaged North West Hydraulics to analyze it as it’s not consistent from the North end of the valley to the South. Resource available for local governments in pdf and map formats. Also spoke about reporting the

version of datum you worked with. Highly technical workshop.

- Nelson gave an update on the hydrometric network station expansion and to also get the data up on the website where it is available for everyone. This project officially started at the beginning of this month and Nelson is already working with ONA and other contractors to get that project up and running.
- Received a \$50,000 grant through the provincial ‘Healthy Water’ initiative that is being run through the real estate foundation for the implementation of the SWP toolkit that we have been developing here in the Okanagan that will be funding that will help roll out some of the projects that are recommended in a few different pilot areas in the valley. If you are interested in this, please contact Kellie Garcia.
- Kellie reported on the agricultural water supply communications project, this is where farmers can get emails or text messages related to water in different ways from their suppliers for drought prevention measures. Since we haven’t had severe droughts for a few years, the water suppliers are using them in different ways for reminders of turn on/turn off dates etc. The idea is to build that trust and communication channel that goes from the water purveyor to their agricultural customers so that people get used to it and know where to get that kind of information.
- We are also doing an update on several other OBWB toolkits particularly the 2009 groundwater bylaws and 2012 topsoil bylaws toolkits. Trying to bring them all up to date. There have been a lot of legislative changes on groundwater so we want to update it as much as possible. If you’re interested in becoming involved in either of these projects you should also contact Kellie.
- Corrine gave a detailed report on our events – World Water Day. Also an update of zebra mussels and moss balls that were coming into the aquarium trade.
- Carolina gave an update on the Osoyoos water forum – we are trying to put contingency plans in place due to Covid given that we have people from the US and Canada involved. Last push for people to register for the Western Canada Aquahacking Challenge so if you want to go on your social media feeds and find the aquahacking pages/links, please share.

- The gap analysis and recommendation study to update the Okanagan Lake Regulation System and Operating Plan, through a contract with the province – report is completed and delivered to the province. There is a list of things that we need to do in order to update the regulation system and be better prepared for climate change without causing harm to fisheries and enhancing drought. As it was done under contract we cannot release it yet however when it is, it will be available to the public.
- James gave his report to the board – 15th year of our water conservation and quality improvement grants which it also is for the WSC as well. Grant recipients were announced – 17 different grants given to different organizations in the valley and used the \$350,000. Corrine and James are working on a press release.

6. GUEST SPEAKER: Sheena Spencer (MFLNRORD – Research Hydrologist) Okanagan Forestry Research

Nelson provided introduction.

- Since I joined this position recently, I do not have any results yet to share however I can share some of the work I have previously done.
- Double funneling in a mature coastal British Columbia forest spatial patterns of stemflow after infiltration.
- Runoff generation in a steep snow-dominated watershed in Alberta’s southern Rocky Mountains.
- Stream temperature – physiographic vs. climatic control.
- Extreme rainfall events – hydrologic and climatic characteristics of two extreme rainfall events in the Canadian Rocky Mountains – comparisons of 2013 and 2014 storms and link to storage and watershed memory. Large storms may become more frequent with climate change.
- Upper Penticton Creek Watershed experiment – continued monitoring of streamflow, climate, snowpack i.e. hydrological recovery, low flows. Maintaining control watershed (24 Creek) and baseline data – climate change and phase 2 of research. Historic data: storage, runoff generation and water chemistry.

- UBC-O Watershed Ecosystems Project with Adam Wei – to study and manage critical processes/values and their interactions e.g. timber, biodiversity, Indigenous values, aquatic functions, water. Funded in Nov 2020.
- Forest Regeneration Post-MPB Infestation – differences in stand condition based on tree ages and management history when MPB infestation began. Further characterize forest and hydrologic recovery in these young forests.
- Other research Priorities: Increased wildfires due to climate change, wildfire effects on water quantity and quality, drinking water, low flows, fish habitat.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS ARISING FROM WORKSHOP

Anna: In our work on flooding I think if we want to have this big picture idea how climate change is affecting flooding and drought it is going to be important to have the research you have. Have you thought about extrapolated some of the other salmon species coming into the valley.

Sheena: Certainly if there are results that come from that, that are relevant to other species that would be great. We are specifically focusing on Peachland Creek – historic data in those and may do a comparison study across multiple streams just to see drivers and different timing. If there is expansion we can do towards other species, that would be great.

Denise: Sheena, you mentioned in your work in the Rockies there seems to be more hydrologic resilience in response to forest fires and logging and wondering why do you think that was?

Sheena: The storage capacity of those watersheds was really quite large. They have 3 meters of spatial till so it wasn’t forming an impermeable layer. The geology of the area is also sedimentary and fractured and I kept finding that when you are looking at responses in the streams or ground most of the time water was moving down. If you have a lot of evapotranspiration, these watersheds just take water and slowly translate as oppose to other areas that have more impermeable layers. The other part of it was to do with the location of the snowpack. Large alpine zones, those areas are generally tree free. If the majority of the water is coming from the alpine area, the disturbance you are doing lower down aren’t affecting the peak flows that happen throughout the year.

Renee: Tricia and I were quite interested in the North Okanagan Regional district about groundwater on forested areas on the plateau and we put in groundwater monitoring back in 2006 and have been gathering that information for years and we were always curious how we could provide that to forestry for further information.

Sheena: I might email you later and get Tricia's contact details because additional data is always welcome.

Tricia: We are also partnering with Adam Wei on some of the cumulative effects and continue with the communication with Renee and Rita. Thank you for the presentation, that was good information.

Nelson: One of the things that has been noted by Glen Sinclair is that the OBWB has some interesting long-term data and I think we will make sure you have access to it or at least are aware of what is in our library.

Sheena: It is nice having long-term data.

Nelson: On behalf of the WSC, thank you for being here and welcome to the Okanagan.

8. VIRTUAL COFFEE BREAK

9. TERM 10 - WORK PLAN

Nelson: I'm going to ask Farah to do a bit of a presentation that goes through our last work plan to give the council a sense of what we did our last term. We have not had a work plan for two terms now and the 2008 work plan is the one we are still working out of and what I would like to do is ask Farah to walk us through what that plan looked like. Our goal is to collect some feedback from everyone at relatively high level for what we are calling Term 10 work plan for the WSC and that will include some big picture items on governance and very specifically and maybe the most useful and tangible part of the plan which is the committees. We will be presenting the plan to this group in June. That is our timeline.

Farah: Covered the OBWB mandate and vision. Introduced the OBWB governance framework diagram and took feedback.

Nelson: As a background to this, this was put together during Bernie Bauer's year and it was really intended to help us understand the

connection between moving parts. We definitely have the opportunity to update it. There are these relationships going on between staff, various projects, and multiple partners. It's helpful to have a governance diagram that situates the council. It would be great to hear your thoughts on the high-level relationships.

Scott: It think it is also good to note that we are a function of the regional district boards. I think we lose that sometimes.

Hans: One thing I am wondering is where are the actual water users located in this diagram. If it is only the regional districts that represent them then we have a problem.

Nelson: That is a good suggestion. I think one of the things that is missing - a bubble that says council membership that reflects water users. That's a really good comment.

Brian: It is important for everyone to remember the council is not comprised of 30 individual people. It is an organization of organizations. As individuals who represent those organizations but that's all they are. It is intended that members communicate regularly with the organizations that have appointed them to the council in a two-way fashion. There is a link, communication channels created between the council and what is going on here in the Okanagan and the various member organizations.

Nelson: that is a great observation. I think when we first talked about this maybe six years ago, one of the things that was less clear was the relationship between the board and the council and I think that has become clearer over time. There is also ambiguity between the council and different on-going projects and I feel that is less ambiguous today than in our formative years.

Jeremy: What is senior government?

Nelson: It's usually lumped in provincial/federal.

Nelson: Brian or Bernie do you have any comments on this?

Bernie: I think this is a good representation. In the early years it might not have been clear what the structure was and Hans asked a good question about water users, the little bubble on the left-hand side but it's also an umbrella so it is difficult

to represent. The WSC doesn't really have the ability to speak to the community as a council because we have to speak through the OBWB. For example, the only person in the WSC who has the ability to speak the press is the chair for the delegated individual that the chair decides to communicate. It's not perfect but it does give an idea about the dynamics of where we sit. Our relationship is very strong with the sub-committees created that also interface with the projects that the staff manage.

Tricia: When I looked at this, I was a little unclear the relationship between the stewardship council and sub-committees. From this it looks like there's a closer connection between the board, projects and committees and not necessarily the council. So I thought maybe the council and committees should be switched.

Bernie: Need to pay attention to the dotted lines vs solid lines.

Nelson: I think in the next version what would be good is to have the WSC in the heart of it. That would also help situate the reader in terms of what those relationships are. This is a great start, I look forward to seeing an updated version of this and a wonderful transformation. There is also a significant clarity around relationships now that I don't think was the case 5-6 years ago.

Brian: Back to Jeremy's point - the term senior government is right beside First Nations, in terms of seniority, first nations would say First Nations are really senior. What if we were to be more explicit about this cloud and call it federal and provincial governments instead which is what it is intended to be.

Farah: covered the table of contents from the previous work plan.

Scott: Nelson has brought up the notion of new board and committees.

Nelson: We didn't have a document that had everything in one place. This will ensure we have all our pieces in one place and having an updated work plan continues to provide a roadmap what we plan to do in the coming months.

Scott: We will be able to add more to this once we form our committees and provide that information as well.

Nelson: The other piece that this document is

intended to encompass is the two or three work page plans from each one of the committees and once we solidify this moving forward.

Bernie: We don't have an appendix that talks about the history of the WSC and there are a few of us who were the original members back in 2006 and document it as a legacy product.

Nelson: That's a great suggestion.

James: I wondered too in the executive summary page based on the diagram we looked at and Bernie's comments it might be useful to have a message from the board chair talking about the way the board relies on the council and how it ties together and the various projects - message of support.

Nelson: That's a really nice touch James, thanks.

Nelson: Anything else that anyone thinks is missing from this document? One of the things I wanted to touch on historically we have sent out a survey of the membership asking what they liked or disliked about the last term and what ideas they have for the future term. The intent is to have that survey go out over the next two weeks and those results get integrated in this term 10 document and present it to the council and committee. That's great, I think there are some really good suggestions for us to update this document and I am looking forward to pulling this together for the council for June.

10. TERM 10 - COMMITTEES

Scott: We have been talking about forming new committees for this work term - five of them. Over the next few months we will be asking the chairs of these committees to form co-chairs and committee members. We certainly want active membership from the committee. I am going to be leading the wetland committee and I will be looking for a co-chair. Maybe each committee chair can introduce themselves and take it from there. Brian are you going to be the policy committee chair?

Brian: Yes I am going to chair the **policy committee** again. It takes work that other council committees are doing and looks for opportunities to use it to influence policy at higher levels of government, meaning generally the provincial and federal governments. Also looks out for proactive opportunities to influence the federal and

provincial governments that we care about in the Okanagan and we do some reactive work as well when higher levels of government come out with propose new legislation or guidelines, policy and they ask for input. A recent example was the federal government and the Canada Water Agency where we provided, on two occasions, input to their engagement process. I have a good committee from last term and looking for 5-6 volunteers going into term 10.

Denise: Nelson asked me if I would be interested in helping to plan a committee that would look at **planning and water management** which is a broad cloth of activities potentially and we may re-name this committee but the idea is we will be looking at some of the gaps in climate change, modeling and water management issues in the region. We are also interested in looking at indirect effects of climate change, things that occur across physical boundaries. A third focus will be on how we incorporate all the uncertainties that are associated with climate and other global drivers in terms of planning processes. We are open to discussion about where this committee should go. I'm pretty sure we will have a good group who is interested in this committee.

Kirsten: **Agriculture and water committee.** We will be embarking on our next term soon. We have a fantastic group of people engaged. The co-chair for this committee is Bruce Naka but we also have members from individual growers, BC agriculture council, municipalities, provincial government, and several grower organizations. The last term we were really focused on barriers to groundwater licensing particularly in the Okanagan but issues that cover the whole province. We are trying to wrap up that work and move on the next term's objectives which include focusing on education, particularly related to more efficient and effective irrigation practices.

We have also started to brainstorm some new ideas, there have been some suggestions that we will work on a drought management tool kit for agricultural producers based on various stages of drought and when those drought events occur per crop, we would compare calculations from the BC water agriculture calculator and historical use to see how that compares. We are pretty excited to move into the next term with lots of fresh ideas.

Scott: The other committee that will be formed is the **alluvial fan committee**. Bernie, you are part of that, would you like to talk about it?

Bernie: I think we are settling on something with alluvial fans and surface water/groundwater interaction because the alluvial fans are critical not only for water concerns but also the agriculture industry. I have been trying to strong arm Craig Nichol who is a colleague of mine here at UBCO who has done a lot of work on surface water/groundwater interaction and is a hydrogeologist to co-chair this with me. He's going on sabbatical this upcoming year but I think I said that should free up his time a little more. He has not said yes but I suspect with a little more nudging he will agree to co-chair. It is a brand new committee and agree on our terms of reference. Perhaps Sheena could join as a volunteer?

Sheena: Yes sure, Denise has also asked me to sit on here committee so if it is normal to sit across multiple committees, I am happy to do that.

Bernie: Welcome to the Okanagan. We will also see if Natasha would be interested in joining because she has done some work with First Nations. I am happy to take suggestions about who might be good people to put on this committee.

Scott: So Nelson, will be sending out a list prior to the next meeting so everyone is aware of it or do we just want to ask everyone if they want to be part of one of these five committees?

Nelson: There is six on that list, there is also the source water protection committee. Even though they will transition into something more specific, one of the things that Renee has talked about is moving with that committee so that all the legacy pieces can be wrapped up. I would like to check with Renee if that is still the case and kind of similar what we did with Bernie where there was a timeline for his reservoir piece and when that kind of wrapped up they were done with their job.

Renee: yes I think there is still some interest from my group to follow through on the second part of the toolkit. We can meet and wrap up especially position paper no. 2 it will be looked at further by the board in the next couple months and we can wrap it up properly in the next 6-8 months.

Nelson: I think in terms of next steps, today we would take time to look at the proposed committees but also open the floor if there are any additional committees that people would like to see created. By volunteering a committee you are most certainly committing to chairing it so word of warning. This list came from the leadership team

and we talked about this for a couple months and this will be a rotating list every couple of years.

Hans: During the last term we asked the water committee had the water sustainability act on its agenda. Is that still the case for the coming term? If not, this might be something that we might want to consider.

Kirsten: I think it is definitely possible that it is still on the agenda but we haven't finalized that. I will keep that open and I will update you after our discussion on the 15th.

Nelson: I would suggest that is a sort of on-going issue with the policy committee.

Hans: As long as we keep this on the radar, that's fine. Are you suggesting this could end up being a committee on its own?

Nelson: Yes I think so, if there is some interest. Throughout the province, if they're not in this category there are some water management and watershed security plans that are being developed, so I think there is lots for us to learn and make sure we keep an eye on in terms of how to make sure the Okanagan not only learns from other watersheds in BC and they're planning processes and how to we engage with the water sustainability act. That could very well become its own committee but for now it needs to continue to be part of the multi-threaded conversations of the policy committee.

There's a question from Tricia here too about the water quality/health chair and this is because he isn't here. Rob Birtles from Interior Health has agreed to chair this committee but unfortunately couldn't be here today. One of the things that is still uncertain about that committee is the co-chair. We haven't had a water quality committee for a number of years now and I think given some of the work Tricia did on endocrine disrupters and some of the large lake water quality information, there's lots of opportunities for us to be able to have that committee.

Brian: Just one thought occurring to me now, back to one of Anna's comments about the Okanagan Lake Regulation System the fact that Shaun Reimer has a report that he will be releasing soon. One of the 18 studies or information gaps that Anna referred to is an extensive public outreach consultation programme and that is recommended in the report to start very soon. This whole process

of modernizing the OLRS is driven by the fact those assets are all getting fairly old and will need replacement in the next couple decades and climate change is making it harder to operate the system the way it was intended. It is a really timely thing driven by a couple of serious drivers and there is an opportunity to really expand the process of the Okanagan river restoration initiative has started to denaturalize. It's going to be a big project that is going to extend of over many years and it's going to be a big public consultation. It seems only natural that the WSC would be a key stakeholder in that so we might need a committee in the upcoming months during term 10 to stake handle and coordinate the response.

Anna: That would be a good thing for the council to be involved and is yet to be seen how those projects will roll out. The Central Okanagan is working on a flood mitigation planning process and they're doing a really big public outreach as part of that. I want to encourage all the members of the WSC to keep your ears out for it and there is likely a potential to engage in that community outreach.

Nelson: There are some big committees for which we have not formed committees like a groundwater committee and some that look at other aspects of water. Something that we have learnt is that we can't do it all and we need to have a max number of committees – probably six. At one point we have tried doubling that and it didn't work out. Scott, perhaps we should get a motion to approve these six committees.

Scott: Okay, Denise and Kirsten. So that brings us to the roundtable.

11. MEMBER UPDATES: ROUNDTABLE

Scott: With the OCCP, we have been working with the ONA on the lake management plan over the last several months. We have had several workshops on water laws, perspectives and trying to integrate them into what are the systemic issues holding the current land use practices for protection of watersheds and we are just in the part of coming up with the analyses. We did come across some great other workshops that were almost the same time as ours were and we are going to compare the information that we gathered to see if we are on the same track.

Jeremy: Just some big picture updates with ECCC. The supreme court held the constitutionality of

federal carbon tax and how that rolls out in relation to water is a good question but it's a pretty big one. That has triggered a lot of focus on climate change impacts and mitigation. One of my roles here is to take the practical stuff we work on back up to ECCC and see if it can guide things at the national level.

Allison O'Neill: We have got ourselves a new president at the OK College. We have a new leadership team coming in. Excited to see how that changes the direction of the college. Looking at post-Covid return to normal.

Andrew Petersen: It's a new year, so the funding started to roll over. We are focusing on the regenerative Ag discussion if that makes any big changes. Things are just getting rolling, the new fiscal comes in but nothing has been approved at this point.

Bernie: There is a lot of research on groundwater and plans to get back into the classrooms in September but it will be up to the vaccine roll out and we are on hold and has impacted summer research and much of the behavioral research has been hindered.

Brian: A couple conference notes. The CWRA has an annual conference at the end of May which will be virtual. If you are interested in submitting a paper you can get that in on the website. The Osoyoos Lake Water Forum, and through my CWRA role I am contributing to that. There was a steering committee meeting this morning and we have confirmed a mid-October schedule (14th-16th). That will be in-person and if cannot then we will shift into the spring. We are going to do it in a similar fashion. It's going to quite an interesting conference.

Anna: There is an overlap with the October WSC meeting date but we will make it work.

Denise: I have renewed my honorary research associate position with AAFC and will be continuing to do some work on crop suitability with Kirsten. Follow up on the work we did with the aquifer looking at nitrogen pollution in groundwater. That will be my research interest in the next year.

Doug Geller: For the groundwater association I noticed Marta provided a brief update about the virtual convention and AGM. The only update I have on that is the date changed a little bit. I think it's next Friday the 16th and the agenda has been posted on the association website.

Glen Lucas: Just starting the tree fruit season. With covid-19 our big issue is labour. Tough times in the apple sector and with us going to be the highest minimum wage, there is a lot of cost pressure on growers. When we look at irrigation costs, they're higher than our competitors in the Washington State. Would like to work more closely with regional governments on both streamlining the regulation of housing but also on how we competitively price our irrigation. It would be good to have more of structured process with that. I see that Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, funding agency that administers various programmes, they just launched today the local government partnership programme. It's designed to support the development of shared visions for agriculture in BC communities and to encourage the integration of agriculture to local government planning and decision making. BC AGF is going to dive into that programme. Housing for agriculture workers and the other one is pricing of water which is related to the work we do over here.

Hans: There is work underway to establish a working group between the Ministry of Agriculture and the council on groundwater licensing. Curious to see where this will go. I will be a member on the committee. Just a few days ago the agriculture solutions programme was announced for BC. It has been around other provinces since 2017. A lot of on-farm research that will go into it e.g. carbon sequestration. There is a fair bit of funding available. We shall see who will actually apply for the funding. The idea is developing an essential agency and academia could also play a role in this.

Kellie: Source protection toolkit has been finished off and we just got it back from the technical editor – we will be launching that soon and preparing the website for it. We got a \$50,000 grant from the 'Healthy Water' initiative to keep working on source protection related initiatives. Will continue working with all the water suppliers to better coordinate and working on collaborative efforts. Also working on updating the groundwater by-laws and topsoil by-laws toolkits. Plan is to have all these resources ready to go in the next few months and to do an education outreach with all of them.

Kirsten: Hans, I am glad you raised the news on the new programme. I put the link in the chat for those who didn't manage to attend the stakeholder engagement meeting yesterday. There is some funding immediately available to form some groups. The application deadline for that is middle of June. Ag Canada seems to be hitting that climate change mitigation work really hard and they have a lot of

the AG scientists engaged in a roadmap where we have been asked to project how much carbon we can fix by 2030 and 2050 and it is taking up a lot of our time.

Lorne: The BCWF has their AGM this month and another big story under the watershed security funding the BC is that the BCWF got funding to do wetland projects across the province. Have to get the details if it will take place in the Okanagan. I will be able to give updates as that develops.

Randy Hardy: Recently received a watershed assessment got the final draft version for the Mission Creek watershed so that was a project with ourselves and that will be finalized shortly. We are also working with black mountain district on some mitigation projects within the watershed just to reduce the risk of wildfire. Coming up in the next couple of weeks most of the licensees will be looking at road inspections as the snow melts.

Mike Overend (TOTA): We are the regional tourism organization – looking at how businesses operate and the relationships between businesses and visitors to our region and one thing we are still working on that OBWB is aware of is our eco-efficiency audits so we are working with Greenstep Solutions doing energy and wastewater audit and they're able to get these reports and see how they can mitigate their waste and water use. Trying to make an impact on the tourism industry and businesses' footprint on the land .Looking forward to being involved on this committee.

Corrine: We had the screening of Lost Rivers sold out very quickly and we made sure to post the discussion and the link to the film on our YouTube channel. With the 'make water work and don't move a mussel' campaigns – we have a new marketing company we are working with out of Edmonton. They have held discovery meetings so now it's a question of looking at detailed strategy and timelines. In terms of the moss balls, the council meeting was held after this incident. We got an update from the province on this issue, they are still rounding up these moss balls. Lower mainland there were many purchases and on Vancouver Island. These were from stores but also online purchases. This was something that caught the province off guard as they were being purchased online. Working with Kijiji and Amazon through department of Fisheries and Ocean to halt the importation of these invasive mussels from Ukraine which is where they're from originally. They have now done testing on them and the water and found them to not be viable however Eastern Canada was

not the case. Every effort was been made to cease them and destroy them. They are going to have 9 inspection stations compared to 12 in 2019 as the border is closed. If the border does open during the summer, this will be re-visited. One of the comments I did receive, is that this was concerning and alarming. There is an art show in Osoyoos – Our Lakes, Connecting our Waters, many partners were interviewed for this. I will be putting all of this into our board report which I will be sending out tomorrow.

Rod: We have the EOSP activated because of fire not water. In terms of water it's been a pretty dry March and it looks like it's going to be a dry April and dry and warm into May. For the City of Kelowna we have been working on finalizing the official community plan and all of the inputs you have all been providing is beginning to show. We are starting to see some policies e.g. alignment with natural assets, A lot of terminology has been updated and good comments from the public. Working on water rights, in addition of our bylaws as gone through for reading. Still having small issues. OCP – we have incorporated source water protection zones on the lake in mapping and we have redefined our source water protection parameters.

Ryan: Top of our priorities involving water is getting to all the reviews for groundwater and surface water license referrals we have been receiving and it's been a regional priority to process those. Getting ready for the flood and drought seasons. There was calls today about flood observer training we have been starting regional drought planning as well. Working on reviewing the memorandum of understanding with Ministry of Transport on water sustainability act related permits that they have. Working on wetland stuff, I heard Lorne mention BC Wildlife Federation receiving some wetland funding. We have got one of those projects going on in the Similkameen. Stream temperature research this summer and perhaps some fisheries sensitive watershed research looking at baseline conditions as the results. Strategies have changed for some of licensees in the Thompson region.

Tony: At the end of last month we were able to do some work in front of the Kal Dam, we did a bathymetric survey that showed sediment build up that was impeding the outflows from the lake. The project was very successful and we are seeing a 10% increase in the ability of the water come out of Kal Lake and that will increase as lake level increases which will help with flood mitigation for years to come. Snowpack is above normal this year but not

in an alarming way. Environment Canada is predicting a cool spring and that means snow will melt slowly and avoid flooding. We will see what the spring rains bring. The gap analysis study was completed and Shaun has received that and looking forward to the next steps. Just completed our fiscal year end and putting everything into place and getting ready for flood, drought, and fire. Premier Hogan spoke at the conference today he was short on details but definitely signaling changes to foreign policies seems like some of them could be significant and details will come out in the next couple of months.

Tricia: Right now we are into our utility climate change assessment resilience plan. Trying to get an operational planning group with some of us and local municipalities and DFO on permitting and water licensing and how we can improve that process on our end or at least a venue to discuss local issues that come up. Most recently working through regulations and future dam work being

done. Trying to bridge the gap in differences of knowledge between ourselves and the province.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date of the OWSC is to be confirmed for Tuesday, May 4th, 2021 (Joint Board Meeting).

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Scott at 3:34 pm.

***“That there being no further business,
the meeting of the Okanagan Water
Stewardship Council of March 11th 2021
be adjourned.”***

***Moved by Jeremy Fyke and seconded by
Brian Guy.***

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

Executive

Director