

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN WATER STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL HELD ON  
THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009, AT THE BENVOLIN HERITAGE CHURCH, KELOWNA, BC**

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**PRESENT**

Council Members:

Bernie Bauer, Chair	UBC Okanagan
Ted van der Gulik, Vice Chair	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Anna Page	Regional District North Okanagan
<del>Bal Poonian</del>	<del>Urban Development Institute</del>
Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Brian Guy	Canadian Water Resources Association
Bryn White	South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program
Chris Radford	Regional District Central Okanagan
Denise Neilsen	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Don Degen (alt. for Mark Watt)	City of Kelowna
Doug Edwards	Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
<del>Doug Geller</del>	<del>BC Ground Water Association</del>
Gevan Mattu	Environment Canada – Pacific & Yukon Region
Hans Buchler	BC Agriculture Council
<del>Howie Wright</del>	<del>Okanagan Nation Alliance</del>
Jillian Tamblyn	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen
Ken Cunningham	Ministry of Environment, Water Stewardship
Kirby Rietze (alt. for Doug Edwards)	Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
<del>Kerry Rouck</del>	<del>Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association</del>
Lee Hesketh	BC Cattlemen's Association
Lorne Davies	OCEOLA Fish and Game Club
Lorraine Bennest	BC Fruit Growers Association
<del>Magnus Bein</del>	<del>Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program</del>
Mark McKenney	Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society
<del>Mark Watt</del>	<del>City of Kelowna</del>
<del>Mike Adams</del>	<del>Interior Health Authority</del>
Steve Matthews	Ministry of Environment, Environmental Stewardship
Vic Harwood	Community Futures Development

Staff:

<del>Anna Warwick Sears</del>	<del>Executive Director, OBWB</del>
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director, OBWB
Genevieve Dunbar	Office and Grants Administrator, OBWB
Kellie Garcia	Research and Communications Coordinator, OBWB

Others:

Judie Steeves	Kelowna Capital News
Kevin Bladon	FORREX
Rick Simpson	OCEOLA Fish and Game Club
Solvej Patschke	Ministry of Environment
Vic Jensen	Ministry of Environment
John Janmaat	UBC Okanagan
Rehan Sadiq	UBC Okanagan
Ron Taylor	OCEOLA Fish & Game Club
Tom Siddon	Outgoing Chair of Water Stewardship Council

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Nelson Jatel, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06pm

**2. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

Nelson Jatel facilitated the introduction of all members and guests.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved by Gevan Mattu**

**Seconded by Bernie Bauer**

*"That the agenda for the April 9, 2009 meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved."*

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of a regular meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council held February 12, 2009, at the EECO Centre, Kelowna

**Moved by Bernie Bauer**

**Seconded by Gevan Mattu**

*"That the minutes from the February 12, 2009, meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council be approved as circulated."*

**CARRIED**

**5. ELECTION OF CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR**

Dr. Bernie Bauer was nominated for Chair.

No further nominations were presented at second and third call for nominations; nominations for Chair were closed.

There being no other nominations, Dr. Bernie Bauer was declared Chair by acclamation.

Ted van der Gulik put his name forward to continue as Vice-Chair.

No further nominations were presented at second and third call for nominations; nominations for Vice Chair were closed.

There being no other nominations, Ted van der Gulik was declared Vice Chair by acclamation.

Nelson Jatel turned the meeting over to Chair Bauer.

## **6. WELCOME AND COMMENTS FROM NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Chair Bauer and Vice-Chair van der Gulik welcomed members and guests and provided some opening comments.

## **7. PRESENTATIONS**

Vic Jensen, Senior Environmental Impact Biologist with the Ministry of Environment, gave a presentation about the Okanagan Large Lakes Water Quality Monitoring Program. Phosphorus loading to the lakes has decreased dramatically since point source control began in the late 1970s, but continued control is important. Climate variation affects our lakes; therefore phosphorus control needs to include non-point sources such as urban storm water. MoE is lacking a good inventory of phosphorus loading from non-point sources. A more formalized approach to shared responsibility of large lakes is suggested to ensure sustainability.

Lorne Davies, representative of the OCEOLA Fish & Game Club, gave a presentation about club activities. He discussed the operation of a Kokanee incubator, stream restoration projects on Middle Vernon Creek, education and awareness initiatives, riparian zone classification, and groundwater research.

## **8. BOARD REPORT**

Mr. Jatel summarized a presentation that was given to the Water Board on April 7 by Don Dobson. The presentation provided the results of a needs assessment for hydrometric monitoring. 156 government stations have been discontinued in the Okanagan since the 1980s, and the current network of 25 Water Survey of Canada stations is not adequate. The study indicates that a network of 160 hydrometric stations in full operation by 2013 is required for best management.

Ms. Dunbar provided a summary of the 2009 grant recipients. More than \$650,000 in funding request were received this year, with only \$300,000 available for the program. Funding was awarded to 22 projects. Projects include watershed assessment and protection planning, water quality monitoring, xeriscaping education and outreach, water auditing, metering, habitat mapping, and creek restoration. The majority of the projects were awarded between \$7,000 and \$12,000. One project received the maximum funding of \$30,000.

A media release was distributed on April 8. It provides a good summary of the grants awarded. Ms. Garcia will email the media release to the Council.

Chair Bauer suggested that more should be done to communicate the successes of the grant program to the public. Dr. Guy and Mr. McKenney agreed. More emphasis should be placed on communicating the end results (i.e., success of the project).

Mr. Siddon suggested that all candidates running for provincial seats receive the Sustainable Water Strategy and board report and a briefing if requested.

Dr. Guy suggested that the total funding amount of \$300,000 be reviewed in light of how much the program has grown.

Chair Bauer requested that staff put together a briefing note regarding the feasibility of increasing the amount of funding available for the program.

Mr. Jatel suggested that the Board must be included in any of these discussions because they are responsible for any decisions made about the grant program.

Ms. Bennest requested that staff calculate what is coming in to the program in the form of matching funding. This tells a good story and should be used to promote the program. She also reminded the Council that increasing the amount of money available to the grant program will take it from other budgets – all money is coming from tax collection.

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### ***Groundwater***

Chair Bauer provided an update on the first meeting of the groundwater committee. The committee identified information that members need to review to get up to speed on groundwater issues in the Okanagan and prioritized actions delegated to the committee.

### ***Water Information Management***

Dr. Guy and Dr. Neilsen provided an update on the first meeting of the water information management committee. The committee identified a series of actions and next steps to take in terms of information collection and management as identified in the Sustainable Water Strategy. The next step will be to put actions into “bins” and set priorities, making use of existing studies. The committee needs to do more research before preparing funding applications for information management projects.

### ***Source Protection***

Ms. Tamblyn provided an update on the first meeting of the source protection committee. The committee has a long list of actions from the Sustainable Water Strategy. The committee will first focus on reviewing the five source water protection plans recently completed for the Okanagan.

### ***Water Supply & Drought Management***

Mr. Hrasko provided an update on the first meeting of the water supply & drought committee. The committee broke down the task list into categories, focused mostly on water use plans and a regional drought plan for the Okanagan. The committee asked themselves the question “what actions and plans would we need in place to deal with a drought like the one being experienced in Australia or at Lake Mead?”

### ***Water Economics***

Mr. Janmaat provided an update on the first meeting of the water economics committee. The main theme of the meeting was pricing, focusing on 3 aspects:

- 1) emphasizing the value of water,
- 2) fairness – ensuring that people regardless of income can afford some basic amount of water and ensure 2 principal groups of users (domestic and agriculture) have fair prices, and
- 3) full-cost pricing – what does that mean and how will it be added into the rate structure?

The committee would like to inventory what is going on in the valley right now in terms of pricing to understand the baseline and develop a best management plan guide that could help utilities.

### ***Communications & Outreach***

Ms. White provided an update on the first meeting of the communications and outreach committee. A discussion ensued about the form and function of the committee. It was determined that the committee has a broader function than fielding correspondence needs of other committees. The committee is developing a common set of communications objectives that it will deliver on behalf of the Strategy and all committees must have a clear understanding of what these objectives are. The communications & outreach committee must be fed information by the other committees, therefore it was suggested that the chairs of each committee should sit on it.

Chair Bauer encouraged council members to sign up for committee duty if not already participating.

## **10. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### 10.1 Drinking Water Reservoir Leased Lots

Mr. Jatel provided an update on the leased lots issue. The Water Board has asked staff to develop a formal policy about leased lots as soon as possible. Mr. Jatel requested that any council members who have received a letter regarding this issue not respond individually – a formal response will be provided by the OBWB Chair.

Dr. Guy reminded the Council that they operate under a Terms of Reference that contains principles and guidelines regarding communication.

Mr. McKenney requested that the Terms of Reference be attached to the meeting minutes.

### 10.2 Smart Planning & Living Water Smart Forum

Ms. Garcia and Vice-Chair van der Gulik announced the Smart Planning & Living Water Smart Forum, which will be held on April 29, 2009 at the Penticton Convention Centre. The purpose of the forum is to showcase how partnerships, collaboration, and innovation are helping local governments make the best choices for sustainable, healthy and vibrant communities.

## **11. NEXT MEETINGS**

The next committee meetings will be held on Thursday, May 14, 11:00-5:00. The timing each meeting will be determined by the co-chairs and a schedule will be sent out next week.

The next meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will be held June 11, 2009 (location TBD).

At the request of the council, future meetings will be held at north, central, and south Okanagan locations.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 pm.

**Moved by Jillian Tamblyn**

*"That there being no further business, the meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council of April 9, 2009 be adjourned."*

**CARRIED**

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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**Chair**

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**Executive Director**