



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD OCTOBER 2, 2018, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN  
9848 ABERDEEN RD., COLDSTREAM, B.C.**

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**PRESENT**

Chair Tracy Gray	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice-chair Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Cindy Fortin	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Ron Hovanes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lisa Wilson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Alt. Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Denise Nielsen	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**REGRETS**

Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen

**STAFF**

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
James Littley	Operations and Grants Manager
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
Kellie Garcia	Policy and Planning Specialist

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Chair Gray respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional and unceded territory of Okanagan Nation.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

6.1.1 Flood Hydrology Contract Authorization

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 2, 2018 be approved as amended.”***

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 7, 2018 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 7, 2018 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be approved.”***

**CARRIED**

## 5. CHAIR'S REPORT

### 7.1 Board Chair Report

Chair Gray, acknowledging that she would not be running in the upcoming civic election, noted the progress the OBWB had made during the last four year term. Over those years, some of the projects include: a review of the board's Strategic Plan and the Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant Program, she said. There has also been successful lobbying for provincial invasive mussel inspection station funding, and support for this from other agencies, thanks to Water Board efforts, as well as stronger federal support with checkpoints at the Canada-U.S. border and participation at the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region. The OBWB has led efforts to conduct LiDAR to flood map the valley, as well as various Water Stewardship Council initiatives. There's still a lot of work ahead, but the organization is in good shape, she concluded.

Dir. Fortin entered the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

## 6. STAFF REPORTS

### 6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears provided an update on the LiDAR flood mapping project, noting difficulty with rain and fog in the spring and fall, the summer fires, as well as the tragic plane crash in August.

Dir. Wilson entered the meeting at 10:06 a.m.

Staff will be getting a project update later today. In response to questions, Dr. Sears noted that the Okanagan-Similkameen still needs to be done, as well as some additional smaller areas.

The International Joint Commission (IJC)'s Osoyoos Lake Board of Control met on Sept. 18. It was noted at the meeting that the three Canadian commissioners (appointed by the Prime Minister) and three U.S. commissioners (appointed by the President) will be replaced this year. The board of control meeting had strong public attendance, likely due to this year's flooding when the lake reached almost historical levels. Water managers in attendance explained the influence of the Similkameen River and historic snowpack.

The board was provided an update on distribution of "A River Film" to Okanagan libraries, museums, post secondaries and school districts.

#### 6.1.1 Flood Hydrology Contract Authorization

Dr. Sears noted that OBWB staff have been meeting with Okanagan regional district staff and the province and an RFP is now ready to go out to complete hydrologic modeling of the valley's mainstem lakes and river channel. This project is intended to compile the LiDAR and orthophoto data together to help local governments and the province with flood planning.

***"THAT OBWB authorizes the executive director to approve the award of contract(s), consistent with all OBWB procurement policies, up to \$200,000 for completing hydrological modeling of the Okanagan mainstem lakes and river channel modeling work supporting flood mapping by Okanagan regional districts. And ONA and other local governments will have access to the data."***

**CARRIED**

***"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated September 26, 2018, be received."***

**CARRIED**

## 6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel provided a brief update on last month's council meeting and the upcoming meeting on Oct. 11.

Fundraising and registration targets for the siwłk<sup>w</sup> (Water) For All - Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) Conference have been met. The conference will be led by three facilitators, two from Okanagan Nation, who will be using the Syilx lens and four food chiefs to inform the conversation. More details are at [www.EFN2018.ca](http://www.EFN2018.ca).

Work is underway on an Okanagan hydrology modeling project, providing detailed analysis of 19 sub-basins in lower valley-bottom lakes. The 19 streams have been identified by the Okanagan EFN Project committee with feedback from local municipalities. Two groupings of streams were selected, based on the timing of local government flood risk assessments/flood mapping.

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s report, dated September 26, 2018, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## 6.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley updated the board on a presentation provided to the Shuswap Watershed Council, regarding the work of the OBWB and the potential for greater collaboration. The SWC is interested in providing a similar presentation at an upcoming OBWB meeting.

***“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager’s Report, dated September 24, 2018, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## 6.4 Communications Director Report

Following up on a request from the board the previous month, Ms. Jackson noted an offer was made to the Thompson-Nicola Regional District to come and speak about invasive mussels and the potential to work together to protect B.C. waters. There has been no response yet, she added.

Both Make Water Work and Don't Move A Mussel campaigns are wrapping up. Final reports will be provided in December. There has been some additional outreach, she added, including the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association's golf tournament, whose theme – the UN Sustainable Development Goals – provided a venue to discuss various local water issues with a unique audience.

***“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated September 25, 2018, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

## 6.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia told the board about Phase 2 funding that has been approved by the BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative to extend the OBWB's work, improving communication between the valley's water purveyors and farmers.

The board was also updated on the Mainstem Drought Stage Triggers Project, working with water suppliers who draw off valley bottom lakes to coordinate in times of drought.

Ms. Garcia explained the reason for the project, noting that the 2015 drought made it clear that shared drought triggers were needed since water suppliers on mainstem (valley-bottom) lakes don't control their water levels – the Province does.

Declaration of drought stages can result in personal hardship, economic losses to agriculture and businesses, and so they need to be correct and defensible. Although Okanagan Lake is a large reservoir, every withdrawal matters in a multi-year drought, she added.

The project team included lake management expert Brian Symonds (formerly Okanagan lake level manager for B.C.), well-respected hydrologist Brian Guy, Water Supply Association of B.C.'s Bob Hrasko, Okanagan Nation Alliance's Fisheries Biologist Karilyn Alex and others. Input was provided by the major water suppliers who draw off mainstem lakes and the province. Smaller suppliers were invited but many did not participate.

Regulation of mainstem lakes is guided by the 1974 Canada-B.C. Okanagan Basin Agreement, which was reaffirmed in 1982. The triggers were developed in keeping with the province's lake management practices, as well as using the Okanagan Fish/Water Management Tool computer model. The stages will have to be reviewed over time with climate change and other possible influencing factors, Garcia added.

Osoyoos Lake, as a transboundary waterway, is already regulated through the IJC. As such, any triggers adopted for it through this process would be considered subordinate to the drought criteria and corresponding regulatory requirements set out in IJC orders, but these triggers can act as a guideline for these orders.

In response to questions, Ms. Garcia explained that, as a result of the 2015 drought, OBWB staff are already in contact with utilities and the province on a regular basis regarding lake levels. The next step would be to have utilities align their drought stages and water restrictions.

The OBWB was considered an appropriate agency to act as coordinator given its valley-wide mandate. As such, it would watch lake levels starting on June 1, or earlier depending on the water situation, and then contact the province if it falls into a "stage." Water suppliers would be convened to discuss appropriate response and those suppliers would make the final decision.

Provincial regulations would be enforced by the province, local regulations by local suppliers.

Staff are now following up with utilities who draw off the valley's mainstem lakes to help them integrate these triggers into their drought plans.

***"THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist's Report, dated September 25, 2018, be received."***

**CARRIED**

## **7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Invasive Mussel Memo**

Staff provided the board an update on inspection efforts and suggested next steps by the OBWB.

Mr. Littley noted that, while some groups have suggested year-round inspections and out-of-province boat bans, legislation that requires all watercraft entering B.C. to report to an inspection station before launching in provincial waters would be more prudent. The board made this request in October 2017 and there has been no update from the province on this, he

added.

In October 2017 the board also asked for expanded: inspections, full-status COs with authority to intercept those who fail to stop at mandatory inspection stations and, trained mussel detection dogs. In response to questions, Ms. Jackson added that in 2018 inspection stations increased from eight to 10, a second full-status CO was added, and a second dog is being trained to join the program in 2019.

The board was also told that federal Fisheries and Oceans Minister Jonathan Wilkinson has not responded yet to an Aug. 16 OBWB letter requesting an increase in support for mussel prevention efforts. There was some discussion about the August federal funding announcement and it was suggested that the OBWB, again, offer support for those efforts that were announced, including support to the Invasive Species Council of BC.

Ms. Jackson noted staff offered this support as recently as Sept. 27, during a province-wide call regarding aquatic invasive species outreach. She offered to follow-up.

***“THAT the OBWB send an open letter to the province calling for legislative changes that require all watercraft entering B.C. to report to an inspection station prior to launching in provincial waters, and requesting an update on all other action items as called for in our October 2017 letter to Minister Heyman.”***

**CARRIED**

***“THAT the Invasive Mussel Report, dated September 25, 2018, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

**8. IN-CAMERA**

8.1 In-camera session (under sec. 90(1)(k) of the Community Charter)

A resolution was presented that the board go into closed meeting at 11:55 a.m.

***“THAT the board meeting be closed under sec. 90 (1)(k) of the Community Charter.”***

**CARRIED**

**9. RISE & REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA**

9.1 The board rose from in-camera at 12:01 p.m. and reported on the approval of a time and materials contract to Vernon’s Associated Environmental Consultants to develop 19 hydrologic models for long-term water planning and management.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 10 a.m. at Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna.

Directors, some of which are up for re-election and some who are not running again, provided some final words. Vice-chair Cunningham, who is not running for re-election, noted her time on the board for the last seven years and her support for the work that has been done. She added that she looks forward to continuing to follow the efforts of the organization.

Dr. Sears thanked the board for their continued support to staff and the projects and issues they are involved in.

10. ADJOURNMENT

*“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 2, 2018 be adjourned at 12:05 p.m.”*

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director