



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD SEPTEMBER 6, 2024, AT ROTARY CENTRE FOR THE ARTS  
421 Cawston Ave, Kelowna, B.C.**

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**PRESENT**

Chair Blair Ireland	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice Chair Doug Holmes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt-Director Christine Fraser	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Victor Cumming	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Charlie Hodge	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Wayne Carson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt-Director Subrina Monteith	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt-Director Shirley Fowler	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Tim Lezard	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of B.C.
Jeremy Fyke	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC)

**STAFF**

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
James Littlely	Deputy Administrator
Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo	Office and Grants Manager
Sandra Schira	Water Science Specialist
Amanda Burnett	Communications Coordinator

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Ireland called the meeting to order at 12:25 p.m.

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

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

- 2.1 Late Item: Deputy Administrator report memo addendum 5.2.1 – see memo addendum in September agenda package.
- 2.2 Late Item: Tracking measures report.

***“THAT the late items be received.”***

***CARRIED***

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***“ THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of September 6, 2024 be approved.”***

***CARRIED***

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of August 6, 2024, held at the Regional District of North Okanagan.

***"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on August 6, 2024, held at Regional District of North Okanagan, be approved."***

**CARRIED**

## **5. STAFF REPORTS**

### 5.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears reported on the progress made in the 2020 – 2024 Strategic Plan. She noted that the evaluation of annual progress over the past five years was completed. She identified that some tracking measures were redundant and that some goals were challenging due to the requirement for partnerships. She promised to provide the board with the compiled report on the Strategic Plan as soon as it became available.

***"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated September 6, 2024, be received."***

**CARRIED**

### 5.2 Deputy Administrator's Report

Mr. Littley presented to the board that milfoil harvesting for the summer is now complete, and preparations are being made for winter milfoil management. Mr. Littley also updated the board on the possible liability of damage to a water intake pipe during milfoil treatment this summer, however insurance will cover the damages, preserving the OBWB's equipment reserve funds. Mr. Littley also provided an update on the ongoing request for proposals for a new milfoil harvester to replace the current machine, which has been operating for over 46 years.

Mr. Littley provided an update to the board on the Sewerages Facilities Assistance (SFA) program, noting that the recent SFA presentation prompted feedback regarding the loss of eligibility for local governments allowing small lot development on private sewerage treatment facilities. Following consultation with the province and local governments, Mr. Littley recommended an additional exemption to the 1.0 Hectare policy to address this concern.

***"THAT the OBWB approve the recommended and approved changes to the Sewerage Facilities Assistance program."***

**CARRIED**

***"THAT the Deputy Administrator's Report, dated September 6, 2024, be received."***

**CARRIED.**

### 5.3 Communications Director Report

Corinne Jackson reported that she had resigned on August 19<sup>th</sup>, with the resignation becoming effective on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Jackson and Board Directors and staff reflected on her 15 years at the OBWB.

In her update, she mentioned that the staff had been participating in weekly calls with the B.C. Regional Technical Drought Working Group. It was decided on August 21<sup>st</sup> to maintain the Okanagan at a Level 3 Drought, previously established on July 25, due to the ongoing analysis of precipitation and stream flow data.

Ms. Jackson provided an update to Board Directors on Make Water Work and Don't Move A Mussel outreach campaigns – noting:

- Although the Make Water Work Community Champion has been awarded, the contest for Okanagan residents will continue until September 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The final promotional videos from Habit will be delivered before her departure.
- The FireSmart campaign expressed interest in continued collaboration on WaterWise messaging into 2025.
- Signs and ads are tapering off for the Don't Move A Mussel campaign, while boat launch signs have been dispatched for delivery.

***“THAT the Communications Director Report, dated September 6, 2024, be received.”***  
**CARRIED.**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE**

Directors reviewed a response letter from Minister Diane Leboutheillier from the Federal Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard regarding invasive mussels dated Aug 9, 2024.

Board Directors discussed OBWB's work on communications between provinces, encouraging a western-Canadian mussel free zone – it was noted that these efforts should be sustained.

***“THAT the letter from Minister Diane Leboutheillier from the Federal Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard regarding invasive mussels dated Aug 9, 2024, be received.”***

**CARRIED.**

**7. IN-CAMERA**

7.1 In-camera session (under sec. 90(c) of the Community Charter) at 1:02 p.m.

The board exited the in-camera session at 1:23 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Regional District of the Okanagan-Similkameen, at 101 Martin St., Penticton, B.C.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

***“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of September 6, 2024 be adjourned at 1:23 p.m.”***

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Interim Executive Director