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Board Report October 7, 2008

OBWB Board Members

John Slater - Chair, Mayor of Osoyoos

Graham Reid - Vice Chair, Mayor of Peachland

Dan Ashton - City Councilor, Penticton

Lorraine Bennest - Councilor, District of Summerland

Patty Hanson - Director, Regional District Central Okanagan

Robert Hobson - City Councilor, Kelowna

Rick Fairbairn - Director, Regional District North Okanagan

Buffy Baumbrough - City Councilor, Vernon

Glen Taylor - Councilor, District of Coldstream

Toby Pike - Vice Chair, Water Supply Association of BC

Tom Siddon - Chair, Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Timothy Manuel - Chiefs Executive Council, Okanagan Nation Alliance

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

OBWB Water Management Program Review: Dr. Sears, OBWB Executive Director, has continued to present the OBWB's Water Management Program Review to local governments in the Valley to provide information and seek support for continuation of the Program. The review has been received favorably by the municipalities and, to date, the OBWB has received resolutions of support from the Regional Districts of Central Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen. The Regional District of North Okanagan will vote on the renewal at their October 8th board meeting.*

* The RDNO approved the resolution and the program has been renewed (October 8th)

Milfoil Rototilling Season to Begin: Milfoil rototillers and equipment are being prepared for the rototilling season to begin November 3rd. The three machines will begin operations in the north end of Kalamalka and Okanagan Lakes and Osoyoos Lake and continue to other lake areas as the season progresses through Spring 2009.

Communication & Outreach: The Board heard an update on the October 21–23 One Watershed—One Water Conference co-hosted by the OBWB and the Canadian Water Resources Association. Speakers have been confirmed for topics including water governance, water supply and quality protection. Day one will feature presentations of case studies while day two will focus on the State of the Basin and an overview of Okanagan water management. On the third day will be the public launch of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council's Sustainable Water Strategy and a discussion of specific recommendations to improve water management.

OBWB staff participated in a field tour of the South Okanagan with other members of the Okanagan Similkameen Riparian Working Group. The group meets twice a year to share information about the riparian/aquatic habitat protection initiatives ongoing in the Similkameen and Okanagan basins. Tour stops included three sections of the Okanagan River and the Osoyoos Oxbows restoration project.

The OBWB's Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit, a guide for local government planning staff, is nearing completion. The first draft will be publicly launched at the One Watershed—One Water Conference.

For more information, please contact the OBWB at: info@obwb.ca

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the the OBWB is November 4th, 2008 at 10am at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen