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www.obwb.ca

Board Report February 3, 2009

OBWB Members

Brian Given - Chair, City Councillor, Kelowna

Stu Wells - Vice Chair, Mayor, Osoyoos

James Baker - Mayor, Lake Country

Doug Findlater - Mayor, District of West Kelowna

Michael Brydon - Director, Regional District Okanagan - Similkameen - Area F

Gordon Clark - Councillor, District of Summerland

Rick Fairbairn - Director, Regional District North Okanagan - Area F

Buffy Baumbrough - City Councillor, Vernon

Gyula Kiss - Councillor, District of Coldstream

Toby Pike - Chair, Water Supply Association of BC

Tom Siddon - Chair, Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Timothy Manuel - Chiefs' Executive Council, Okanagan Nation Alliance

The next meeting of the OBWB is March 3, 2009 at 10am at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

OBWB Election: **Brian Given**, Kelowna councillor, was elected as Chair, and **Stu Wells**, Mayor of Osoyoos, was elected as Vice Chair at the February 3rd inaugural meeting of the OBWB.

Action on Source Protection: The OBWB will send a letter to the Southern Interior Local Government Association to request a motion for a permanent moratorium on sales of leased crown land recreation lots on drinking water reservoirs. In 2008, the Minister of Agriculture and Lands, at the consensus request of all Okanagan local governments, Okanagan Nation Alliance and Interior Health, placed a temporary moratorium on the sale of the leased lots, pending the results of further hydrologic studies. The OBWB advocates that crown lands surrounding drinking water reservoirs in the upper watershed must remain public and not be sold to private interests.

The OBWB will also send a letter to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts expressing concern over the absence of drinking water protection considerations in the *Draft Trails Strategy for BC*, which promotes increased activity in Okanagan community watersheds. Interior Health, Lakeview Irrigation District and the Water Supply Association of BC have also submitted letters expressing concerns over protection of community water sources.

Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grants: The OBWB is soliciting applications for water conservation & quality improvement grants. The application deadline is February 13, 2009. More information is available online at: www.obwb.ca/wcqi.

Senior Government Funding: Building on strong support from senior governments in developing water science for good management, the Board entered into agreements for \$55,000 from the Gas Tax Innovations Fund to support the Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit, and \$140,000 from the Canada-BC Water Supply Expansion Program for the Water Supply & Demand Project, which is creating a water budget for the Basin.

OBWB Relocation: OBWB is now located at the Regional District of Central Okanagan offices on KLO Road in Kelowna.

Watermilfoil Update: Rototilling is underway along Vernon and Kelowna lakeshores. Lake ice, snow, and frozen hydraulics have delayed rototilling operations in Osoyoos Lake; this work will be completed later in the season.

For more information, please visit www.OBWB.ca or email info@OBWB.ca