



**BOARD REPORT: APRIL 7, 2009**

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ship Council

**Timothy Manuel** - Chiefs'  
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**The next meeting of the  
OBWB is scheduled for  
10am on May 5, 2009 at  
the Regional District of  
Central Okanagan.**

### **Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights**

**Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grants:** More than \$650,000 in funding requests was received this year, with only \$300,000 available for the program. After reviewing the grant applications, the OBWB awarded funding to 22 projects promoting best water management practices in the Okanagan. Projects funded include watershed assessment and protection planning, water quality monitoring, water auditing, metering, habitat mapping, and creek restoration. Work on many projects is expected to begin immediately.

**Hydrometric Monitoring for Long-Term Water Management:** Hydrologist Don Dobson presented results of a study determining hydrometric monitoring requirements for the Basin. 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. Hydrometric (water level and streamflow) information is essential for water supply management, regional flood and drought forecasting, and assessment of aquatic ecosystem health.

**Sustainable Water Strategy—Focus on Action:** The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council has established six committees to develop action plans for implementing key areas of the Sustainable Water Strategy: protection of drinking water sources, groundwater, water information management, water supply & drought management, water economics, and communication & outreach.

**Collaborative Partnerships:** The OBWB has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to jointly support an evaluation of future urban growth and other factors affecting water demand.

**Water Management Forum for Local Government Staff:** The OBWB is co-hosting a forum to showcase how partnerships, collaboration, and innovation are helping local governments make the best choices for sustainable, healthy and vibrant communities. The forum will be held on **April 29** at the Penticton Convention Centre. For more information and to register see [www.waterbucket.ca](http://www.waterbucket.ca).

**For more information, please visit: [www.OBWB.ca](http://www.OBWB.ca).**