



Photo by Doug Skarra, 2009



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: February 3, 2010

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www.obwb.ca

OBWB Directors

Stu Wells - Chair,
Regional District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Rick Fairbairn - Vice Chair,
Regional District of North
Okanagan

James Baker, Regional Dis-
trict of Central Okanagan

Bernie Bauer, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

Buffy Baumbrough, Regional
District of North Okanagan

Michael Brydon, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Gordon Clark, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Doug Findlater, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Graeme James, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Gyula Kiss, Regional District
of North Okanagan

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of BC

George Saddleman,
Okanagan Nation Alliance

The next regular meeting of
the OBWB is scheduled for
10am on March 2, 2010 at
Benvoulin Heritage Church –
Reid Hall.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Some new faces join the board table: The Okanagan Basin Water Board re-elected Osoyoos mayor and Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) director Stu Wells as chair, along with Regional District of North Okanagan director Rick Fairbairn as vice-chair. New appointments include Okanagan Nation Alliance's George Saddleman as OBWB director, with alternate Steve Bryson; Mike Macnabb and Shawn Lee will be alternates for RDNO; and Charlie Hodge is a new alternate for Regional District of Central Okanagan. All OBWB terms are for one year.

Planning ahead for potential drought: OBWB staff was given the go-ahead to hold multi-agency webinars, from February to April. The meetings will monitor snowpack and lake levels, and include participation from BC Ministry of Environment, Environment Canada, Agri-Food Canada, and others. Early forecasting will allow water suppliers to plan ahead for potential water conservation requirements to meet consumer needs.

Beauty of xeriscaping highlighted at meeting: The Okanagan Xeriscape Association (OXA) presented accomplishments during its first year to the board, made possible in part with an OBWB Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant. Of great interest was the group's website, www.okanaganxeriscape.org, and its plant database, helping people plan xeriscape gardens based on watering needs, plant size, colour, bloom months and other interests. OXA also noted it will be developing a xeriscape demonstration garden in front of Kelowna's H2O Adventure & Fitness Centre, showing Okanagan residents how beautiful it can be.

Northwest Osoyoos sewer grant approved: Long in the planning stages, RDOS will receive an OBWB Sewage Facilities Grant (SFG), covering about 18 per cent of project costs for a sewer extension in rural Osoyoos. The SFG Program supports Okanagan water quality improvement by providing local governments with funding for treatment plant upgrades and community sewer installation.

World Water Week Committee planning splashy affair: The OBWB is joining forces again with UBC Okanagan to organize what will be an exciting week-long salute to water, March 22 to 26. Robert Sandford, Canadian Chair of the UN International Decade "Water for Life," will be the keynote speaker. For details visit www.ubc.ca/okanagan/speakers.

For more information, please visit: www.OBWB.ca