



**Okanagan Basin**  
WATER BOARD

## BOARD REPORT: March 4, 2010

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4  
P 250.469.6271 F 250.762.7011  
[www.obwb.ca](http://www.obwb.ca)

### **OBWB Directors**

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Regional District of Okanagan-  
Similkameen

**Rick Fairbairn - Vice Chair,**  
Regional District of North  
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trict of Central Okanagan

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Water Stewardship Council

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**Michael Brydon,** Regional  
District of Okanagan-  
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**Graeme James,** Regional  
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**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 April 6, 2010 at Regional District of North Okanagan.

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

**Board wants improved water monitoring in lower elevations:** The OBWB has asked its technical advisory committee, the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, to develop a strategy for the board to work with senior governments and improve water monitoring in mid to low elevation areas. Lack of adequate monitoring reduces the ability to track water supplies and forecast risks of drought and forest fires, and risk to environmental health.

**Clarity requested on drinking water standards:** At the request of Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, and with support from OBWB directors across the valley, the board will write to Interior Health requesting clarification on its drinking water filtration policy. Water quality is a top priority for all communities and more information is needed to move forward.

**Drought proofing webinar wins praise:** The OBWB's first webinar, in which scientists from Environment Canada, Ag Canada, and the BC Ministry of Environment shared up-to-date information on snow pack, lake levels and weather projections, was well-received. Participants included water suppliers, elected officials, food producers, and local media. Presentation notes and information on the next session are available by clicking on "Drought-proofing the Okanagan - 2010" at [www.obwb.ca](http://www.obwb.ca).

**Help for local governments to access water data:** The OBWB has obtained funding to help local governments access data from its Water Supply and Demand Study. Information will help with plans for regional growth strategies, future development and agriculture protection.

**Water Supply and Demand Study results ready for launch:** After three years of intense study, the OBWB will unveil the results of its Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Study, March 26 at Kelowna's Manteo Beach Resort. This study brings together work by BC Ministry of Environment, Environment Canada, federal and provincial agriculture ministries, and many more.

**Long-awaited governance manual gets the nod:** The OBWB's first-ever Governance Manual has been approved by all three Okanagan regional districts. A year in the making, the manual provides a formal reference and guide to the OBWB. The manual is being posted at [www.obwb.ca](http://www.obwb.ca).

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