



**Okanagan Basin**  
WATER BOARD

**BOARD REPORT: October 5, 2010**

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The next regular meeting of the OBWB is scheduled for 10a.m. on November 2, 2010 at the Coast Capri in Kelowna.

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

**Water pricing survey results:** Results from the first of two phases of the water pricing survey, completed by Urban Systems Ltd, are in. The report provides a baseline understanding of water pricing in the Okanagan. With responses from 20 different water utilities in the valley, highlighted findings include: Over 50 different pricing formulas are currently used by the responding utilities, and although 64% of connections are metered, only 25% of those connections are using volumetric pricing. The current price of water varies widely from \$0.15/m<sup>3</sup> to \$1.20/m<sup>3</sup>.

**Valley-wide drought watch signs being developed:** The OBWB is working with local and provincial governments to develop standardized road signs that would indicate a community's current level of drought. Similar in style and purpose to the widely-recognized fire danger signs, the signs would provide a clear and current indication of the local drought conditions. The steering committee is working on the sign prototype—look for implementation of the signs in 2011.

**Innovative Approaches Proposal submitted:** Together with leading experts in agricultural economics, policy development, and law, the Water Board has submitted a major proposal to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Innovative Approaches Program. If successful, the proposed project would turn a \$50,000 OBWB investment into a \$1.6 million study that would investigate the possibility of an agricultural water reserve in the Okanagan and the development a water pricing policy toolkit. The study would attempt to determine the true value of water and irrigated lands in the Okanagan when considering the values of food security, regional aesthetics and tourism, and ecological habitat.

**From Rain to Resource Workshop Upcoming:** There are a few spaces left in the upcoming workshop. The two-day event, co-hosted by the OBWB and the B.C. Water and Waste Association, will be held October 28 and 29 at the Best Western Inn, Kelowna. The event has two streams: one for engineers, planners, and architects who deal with the technical aspects of rainwater management, and one for those developing policy around rainwater management, including elected officials and senior municipal staff. To register, please visit: <http://www.bcwwa.org/seminars/RtoR.htm>.

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