



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: November 4, 2010

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4
P 250.469.6271 F 250.762.7011
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
District 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
10a.m. on December 7, 2010
at Regional District of
Okanagan-Similkameen.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Water Board considers budget for 2011/12: The board of directors reviewed its draft budget for the coming year. The budget, expected to receive approval at the December board meeting, is approximately \$3.7 million. It funds the watermilfoil control program, sewage facilities grants, the water management program, and the new UBCO Water Resources Chair.

“From Rain to Resource” workshop draws praise: The Rain to Resource workshop and trade show, held Oct. 28 and 29 in Kelowna, drew more than 100 delegates, including elected officials, local government staff, and industry experts from across B.C. The workshop looked at innovative ways to address the significant rains expected with climate change. A full report will be available in the coming weeks, and presentations from the workshop will be posted on the OBWB website (www.obwb.ca). The workshop was partially funded by a grant to the OBWB from Natural Resources Canada’s Regional Adaptation Collaboratives program.

OBWB receives grant to develop provincial topsoil guide: The OBWB received a \$10,000 grant from B.C.’s Ministry of Community and Rural Development to develop a Topsoil Bylaws guide for local governments. The guide will promote water quality improvement, water conservation, and stormwater management and is follow-up to the Topsoil Primer that was prepared by the Green Infrastructure Partnership. The Partnership includes the British Columbia Water and Waste Association, Government of B.C., industry groups, and local governments in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.

Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project update: On the board’s suggestion, a report is being prepared on the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Study for Okanagan local government staff. The report will demonstrate how the results of the study can be used as a planning tool. Phase 3 of the study is underway, forecasting the potential impacts of climate change and drought on water availability.

OBWB to work with U.S. counterparts on aquatic weed control: The board voted to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between a coalition of agencies in B.C. and the north-western USA. The goal of the agreement is to promote the exchange of data, information, and best management practices for controlling invasive aquatic weeds.

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