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# Board Report

September 9, 2008

## Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

### OBWB Board Members

**John Slater** - Chair, Mayor of Osoyoos

**Graham Reid** - Vice Chair, Mayor of Peachland

**Dan Ashton** - City Councilor, Penticton

**Lorraine Bennest** - Councilor, District of Summerland

**Patty Hanson** - Director, Regional District Central Okanagan

**Robert Hobson** - City Councilor, Kelowna

**Rick Fairbairn** - Director, Regional District North Okanagan

**Buffy Baumbrough** - City Councilor, Vernon

**Glen Taylor** - Councilor, District of Coldstream

**Toby Pike** - Vice Chair, Water Supply Association of BC

**Tom Siddon** - Chair, Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**Timothy Manuel** - Chiefs Executive Council, Okanagan Nation Alliance

**OBWB Water Management Program Review:** Dr. Sears, OBWB Executive Director, is presenting the OBWB's Water Management Program Review to local governments throughout the Valley to provide information and seek support for continuation of the Program. The current 3-year mandate is up for renewal March 31, 2009, including the Water Stewardship Council and the Water Conservation Quality Improvement Grants Program.

**Water Supply & Demand Project:** Staff reported on the progress of the Project and discussions at the WS&DP technical working group. OBWB Directors endorsed a funding application of \$296,900 to the Canada-BC Water Supply Expansion Program to support completion of the Project. The CBCWSEP has provided two other grants to this project.

**Reservoir Lease Lots:** The Board discussed the ILMB's postponement of the proposed sale of reservoir lease lots. While Directors were pleased that the process was on hold, concerns were raised about ILMB management of the lands in the interim, ongoing needs to protect water storage capacity and water quality, and the potential financial burden on local governments if required in the future to purchase once-public land from cabin owners.

**Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant Updates:** OBWB Directors were given a presentation on the status of the 2008 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement grants for which \$500,000 was awarded to 27 projects in the Okanagan. Recent project site visits by OBWB staff included the Cattle Impact Reduction work in the North Okanagan's Duteau Watershed, Groundwater/Surface Water Interaction in Middle Vernon Creek in the Central Okanagan, and Sediment Coring in Osoyoos Lake. For a list of all 2008 grant recipients, see [www.obwb.ca/2008\\_awards/](http://www.obwb.ca/2008_awards/)

**Communication & Outreach:** The Water Stewardship Council's Sustainable Water Strategy is nearing completion. A meeting with Okanagan Water Professionals and Interior Health staff provided input for the final draft being sent to the printers. The public launch of the Sustainable Water Strategy will be October 23rd at the One Watershed—One Water conference in Kelowna.

Registration for the October 21–23 One Watershed—One Water conference is now available on-line through the OBWB website. Many exciting speakers have been confirmed and the event is expected to be well attended.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the OBWB is for **10 am, October 7th, 2008** at the office of **Regional District North Okanagan**